

Pope said to accept Iraqi invitation

BAGHDAD (R) — Pope John Paul has accepted an invitation by the Iraqi government to visit Iraq, the spiritual leader of Iraq's one million Christians said on Saturday. The head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II, said he would be able to "see the suffering of the Iraqi people." Chaldean Patriarch Raphael Bedawee told a news conference, referring to the impact of the United Nations trade embargo on Iraq. No date has been set for the Pope's visit, he added. Officials at the Vatican were not immediately available to comment. The Pope is due to visit Lebanon in May. Christian leaders of Middle East churches visiting Iraq denounced the trade sanctions which were imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "We have seen the suffering and lived with it for several days," they said in a joint statement. "It is a flagrant aggression against human rights... we persistently call for a lifting of the embargo... regardless of political differences between governments," the statement said. The patriarchs arrived in Iraq on Monday. Michael Sabbah of Jerusalem read the statement which was also attended by patriarchs of Egypt, the Armenians and the Maronites.

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Arafat doubts Israel wants peace

BONN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat was quoted on Saturday as saying he doubted Israel's commitment to the Sept. 13 peace agreement for limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. "It looks as though they do not want peace," Mr. Arafat told the German news magazine Der Spiegel, referring to Israel's hesitation to withdraw from those areas. Israeli troops should have pulled out of Gaza and Jericho in December under the Sept. 13 deal. But security disputes have delayed the withdrawal and more doubts have been raised about the future of the accord since an Israeli extremist killed about 60 Muslims as they prayed at a Hebron mosque on Feb. 25. Mr. Arafat said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was stalling instead of reacting to the Hebron massacre by evacuating extremist Jewish settlers from Gaza and the West Bank. In excerpts from the interview released ahead of publication on Monday, Mr. Arafat said the Hebron killing had boosted the position of Palestinian extremists in the occupied territories.

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Palestinians fight pitched battles with Israeli troops

Resistance goes hand-in-hand with talks, leaders say

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Young Palestinians and Israeli troops fought pitched battles in Jerusalem Saturday after resistance hero Salim Zurai, who served 23 years in prison, exhorted Palestinians to take up the gun again at a rally marking the Hebron mosque massacre. There were few casualties in the fighting that swirled through the Arab sector, with the protesters hurling rocks and bottles and security forces firing rubber bullets and tear gas in streets around the old walled city. But the clashes and the rhetoric underscored how the shock waves from the Feb. 25 slaughter continue to reverberate around the Holy Land, sharpening old hatreds and

jeopardising the Middle East peace process. Israeli police fired rubber bullets at dozens of Palestinian youths throwing stones in Arab East Jerusalem, police and witnesses said. Hospital sources said 20 Palestinian youths were admitted with wounds. Palestinian witnesses said two of them were seriously wounded. Arab sources said troops and Palestinians also clashed in Hebron and the West Bank town of Bethlehem. A Reuters photographer said several Palestinians and an international photo journalist were wounded lightly in the clashes which erupted on Salsaidin street, near the Old City. A police spokesman said pa-

ramilitary border police used rubber bullets to "disperse the youths" and arrested two. "The settlers and the occupation don't know anything but the language of bullets," Mr. Zurai told a 300-strong crowd fired up by tapes of emotional songs about returning refugees by the Lebanese diva Fairouz. "Israel, like all previous occupations of Palestine, can only be driven out by force," Mr. Zurai said. As the crowd chanted "until victory," Mr. Zurai said: "We have to respond to the massacre... and return to the intifada." "Negotiations must continue, but the struggle must continue by every means possible," he said.

Speaker after speaker linked the Hebron slayings to earlier massacres of Arabs — Deir Yassin in 1948, in which 260 were killed by Israelis, Kufir Qassem in 1956, with 43 slain, and the 1982 Sabra and Shatilla bloodbath in Beirut when as many as 800 unarmed people were slaughtered by Israeli-backed Lebanese gunmen. Mr. Zurai, a Palestinian hero, served 23 years in prison for an abortive 1970 seaborne raid on Israel. He was freed following the Sept. 13 peace accord between Israel and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). His fiery exhortations followed similar calls for vengeance by Palestinian fac-

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An Israeli soldier wrestles down a Palestinian to ground to arrest him during clashes in Arab East Jerusalem on Saturday (AFP photo)

Darawshe, delegation head for Syria today

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Fifty Israeli Arabs will leave for Syria Sunday, on an unprecedented visit, to convey their condolences to President Hafez Al Assad on the death of his son Bassel in January. It is a chance to meet with President Assad in order to show our respect for him and the Syrian people, said Abdul Wahab Darawshe, leader of the Arab Democratic Party in the Israeli parliament, told Reuters. It is the first time Syria has allowed a delegation of Israeli Arabs to visit Damascus. Mr. Darawshe said the group would travel to Syria via Cairo and hoped to meet Mr. Assad on Monday. He said it would comprise prominent figures in the Israeli Arab community including another member of parliament, local council heads, intellectuals and journalists. A government-run Syrian newspaper, meanwhile, denounced the promulgation of reported death threats against Syria's small Jewish community as an Israeli campaign to divert attention from the grisly Hebron massacre. Israel, "by circulating such illusions, is trying to transfer the worldwide denunciation

for what it has perpetrated in the Ibrahim Mosque into a new direction," the daily Tishrin said in a front-page editorial. "Israeli claims spring from continuous Israeli attempts to raise doubts about the situation in Syria," Tishrin said. "By doing this, Israel will reap nothing but failure and will never be able to acquire itself of the crimes it commits daily against Arab citizens and holy places." Syria, along with Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), suspended peace talks with Israel after the Feb. 25 bloodshed when a Jewish settler opened fire on praying Muslims and killed at least 60 people. Tishrin dismissed the reported death threats as "mere lies" and said that Syria's Jews, who number fewer than 1,000, were fully integrated, enjoyed the same rights as other Syrian citizens and were living peacefully. On Thursday, Syria's senior Jewish cleric said Syrian authorities had intensified security to protect the country's few Jews following threats their blood would begin spilling March 13 in revenge for the massacre. (see page 2)

Yemenis protest against leadership feud

SANAA (R) — Yemenis, including members of the armed forces, held protests in universities in Sanaa and Aden on Saturday to protest against the dangers of the country splitting in two because of factional bickering, witnesses said. The strikes were called by the Yemeni Organisation for Human Freedoms and Civil Rights, a non-government organisation. Several hundred people took part, including army officers, university professors, lawyers, workers, engineers, journalists and tribal leaders. It was not clear how many members of the army attended the sit-in protests. Organisers said the protests were aimed at protecting the unity of Yemen, forged between north and south in 1990, and implementing a reconciliation accord which provides for political, economic, military and administrative reforms. The protests staged in universities in the capital Sanaa

and Aden, capital of the former south, followed clashes between units of the armed forces which have not fully merged yet. Political leaders of both sides have accused each other of not implementing the reconciliation accord which is aimed at ending the seven-month crisis threatening to redive Yemen. Another sit-in is planned on Sunday in Taiz, a northern province close to the former border between North and South Yemen, the organisation said. Protesters said in statements on Saturday that their action was being carried out under the slogans of "prohibit fighting" and "the homeland is in danger." Only hours after the signing of an accord in Jordan last month by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his estranged deputy Ali Salem Al Beidh, clashes erupted between rival

army units in the north and south. A joint military committee made up of Yemeni, Jordanian and Omani officers and the U.S. and French military attaches in Sanaa has been set up to disengage the troops and return them to their bases. Mr. Saleh, addressing worshippers after Friday prayers in Sanaa, said: "We will do our utmost to contain the crisis. Let our people be assured we will not allow fighting or the shedding of blood for the sake of narrow interests." Mr. Saleh, quoted by the official SABA news agency, added: "Nobody has the right to impose his own guardianship on the unity of the people, whether he is an individual, party or group, there is no giving up of unity, whatever the price."

Mr. Beidh, in a recorded speech to army and security commanders in Aden, broadcast by Aden Television, said Mr. Saleh had evaded implementing the Amman accord, which calls for the arrest of people suspected of political killings. "We are committed to the accord and insist on implementing the first clause which is the arrest of criminals," Mr. Beidh said. His Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) says 154 of its members have been killed since the two Yemens united. Mr. Beidh quoted Mr. Saleh as saying during a private meeting in Amman that "he cannot take measures against the criminals because this will cause him problems in Sanaa." Mr. Beidh said dozens of people had been killed in clashes in the southern province of Abyan and to the north of Sanaa. He blamed the violence on forces from the north but urged units from the two rival armies, still divided, not to raise their weapons against each other.

Afrikaners reject taking part in elections

PRETORIA (AP) — An umbrella group of apartheid whites on Saturday rejected taking part in the nation's first all-race election, even though one of its leaders registered for the vote. A meeting of the self-declared parliament of the Afrikaner Volksfront voted against participating in the April 26-28 vote, and its leader said the group would work against the election. "If we take part in the election, we would just be endorsing its legitimacy," Ferdi Hartzenberg said in announcing the decision to the so-called "Boer parliament" of about 100 right-wing white leaders. "We would just be endorsing the oppression of our people and that would be unacceptable." Retired army General Constant Viljoen, another Afrikaner Volksfront leader who registered for the election 20 minutes before the deadline expired Friday night (see page 8), said he accepted the decision. "This is the wish of the people," he said, adding the group would simply fail to submit a list of candidates by the Wednesday deadline, which would cause its registration to lapse. The Afrikaner Volksfront had vehemently opposed the election, and Viljoen's surprise registration sparked speculation of a split and among the various pro-apartheid white groups it represents. But his response to Saturday's decision gave little in-

White House counsel resigns over Whitewater-linked criticism

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum submitted his resignation Saturday, bowing to criticism of his handling of questions related to the Whitewater land deal. His resignation is effective April 5. "I believe I can best serve you by returning to private life," Mr. Nussbaum said in a letter to President Bill Clinton. He insisted he had conducted himself "in an absolutely legal and ethical manner."

Mr. Nussbaum, 57, said he had made his decision "as a result of controversy generated by those who do not understand, nor wish to understand the role and obligations of a lawyer, even one acting as White House counsel."

Mr. Clinton, in a letter of reply that took indirect note of the controversy surrounding Mr. Nussbaum, said he accepted the resignation "with deep regret."

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Hebron mosque massacre turns Arafat's world upside down

By Salah Nasrabi
The Associated Press
TUNIS — Yasser Arafat's world turned upside down last week: The Israeli foreign minister praised him to Jews while Palestinians who once honoured him as the father of their not-yet nation burned him in effigy. The West Bank massacre of Palestinian men and boys by a Jewish settler in a mosque in Hebron further shrank support for the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Fax machines hummed in Tunis, exile home of the PLO, as erstwhile Arafat loyalists urged immediate withdrawal from the peace talks with Israel. Even staff members of the PLO political department — in a fax to Mr. Arafat with copies to foreign news agen-

cies — advocated a return to armed struggle, "our only and inevitable option." In another multidirectional fax, three Palestinian intellectuals whose writings are well-known to Arab readers called Hebron "a testimonial of death for Arafat's recognition of Israel."

"We demand that those who grow illusions stop implanting them in the minds of our people," said Ahmad Dahbour, Rashed Abu Shawar and Tawfiq Fayadi. Mr. Arafat's office overflowed with PLO leaders conferring on a response to the Feb. 25 massacre. Rhetorical sniping came from inside and outside Mr. Arafat's coterie. "Arafat is just clinging to a very thin rope, and soon we will see him sinking in the mud," said a spokesman for Hamas, a group that poses

the biggest challenge to the PLO claim of leadership in the Israeli-occupied territories. "He is in the weakest position ever because this time he is challenging the will of his own people, who are becoming disenchanted with his policies of making peace with the Zionists," the Hamas spokesman, Ibrahim Ghosheh, said in Amman. Discontent spread within the PLO's inner circles in Tunis. "Arafat is finished and his days are numbered," said a senior official who was one of Mr. Arafat's closest aides for the past decade. Like many PLO men reassessing their futures, he spoke on condition of anonymity. PLO insiders said the PLO chairman was stunned by televised scenes of Palestinians burning his effigy after

the massacre and shouting "Death to the traitors." One of his most fervent defenders was Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister and its point man in the peace negotiations, who shouted down right-wing legislators in the Knesset last Wednesday. "Attack Arafat all you want," Mr. Peres said. "I sat days and nights across from him... I want Arafat to be a partner who can lead his people to peace. We need to help this partner." Mr. Peres, a prime minister in the era when Israeli governments routinely labelled Mr. Arafat a terrorist, blasted Israelis who expressed solidarity with Baruch Goldstein, killer of the praying Palestinians in Hebron. Goldstein, Mr. Peres declared, was "a Nazi" perhaps the most pejorative label a Jew can pin on another

Jew in a country built on memories of Adolf Hitler. Mr. Arafat, in a flurry of interviews with foreign journalists last week, sometimes sounded like a man betrayed. Speaking to an Associated Press reporter two days after the Hebron killings, he reflected on his triumphal return to Tunis after the signing of the Israeli-PLO peace plan in Washington on Sept. 13. Last fall, Mr. Arafat had declared he had "a friend in the White House." That proud proclamation has been replaced by a question: Where is President Clinton when we need him? It was "regrettable," Mr. Arafat said, that the United States did not pressure Israel to make concessions after Hebron, such as accepting international observers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as Israel prepares to return the lands to Palestinian rule.

On Thursday, the Spanish newspaper El Pais published an interview in which it asked Mr. Arafat who was in the more difficult position after the Hebron massacre, himself or Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister. Mr. Arafat said he was, "because I fight for peace, and up to now there is no peace. Rabin manoeuvres and does not work for peace. So I'm the one who is paying the price for peace, and I'm paying too high a price." In an effort to forge a PLO response to the Hebron massacre, Mr. Arafat called a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee Feb. 27. Only seven of the 12 remaining members turned up. Five refused to attend because, they said, Mr. Arafat would do as he wanted whatever the committee decided. Six other members of the committee already had left because of this high-handedness or because they rejected the peace agreement. The PLO bureaucracy in Tunis is down to about 1,000 people from 10,000 five years ago. Many who remain talk of leaving when their children's school year ends in July. A former senior official, Bilal Al Hassan, wrote last month in the London newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat that PLO officials and bureaucrats peeling away at the rate of about 15 a week. Most seek asylum in Norway or the Netherlands, said Mr. Hassan, who now lives in Paris. He said the PLO, months behind in meeting many payrolls, provides those departing with one-way plane tickets to Europe.

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Mogadishu gunmen attack Egyptian, Italian troops

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somali gunmen firing rocket-propelled grenades and one mortar round staged a series of overnight attacks on Egyptian and Pakistani peacekeeping troops in South Mogadishu.

U.N. military spokesman Major Christopher Budge said a Pakistani soldier suffered a minor leg wound from mortar shrapnel and one Somali was wounded in the attacks late Friday and early Saturday.

An American soldier who could hear the fighting from his position said hundreds of rounds were exchanged in fighting around an Egyptian strong point that flared and waned for almost four hours.

Maj. Budge said neither the United Nations nor the Egyptians knew the motive for the seemingly organised attacks. He said they also did not know if the same groups attacked both the Pakistanis and the Egyptians.

The attacks come at a time of an anti-Egypt campaign on the streets of south Mogadishu. General Mohammed Farah Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA) have portrayed rival warlord Ali Mahdi Muhammad's ongoing talks in Cairo as an Egyptian attempt to sabotage Gen. Aided's reconciliation efforts in Nairobi.

Leaflets accusing the Egyptians of trying to colonise Somalia have been circulated in recent days in south Mogadishu, which is controlled by Gen. Aided's SNA militia.

Maj. Budge said the U.N. had no indication other than

the location of the attacks in south Mogadishu that any particular group might be behind the raids.

He said the attacks began with a mortar round that wounded the Pakistani soldier at about 11 p.m. (2000 GMT). The Pakistani position is near the Egyptian strong point.

About a half hour later, Maj. Budge said two pickup trucks loaded with armed Somalis opened fire on the Egyptian strong point close to the intersection of the Oct. 21 and Medina roads.

Somalis attacked the Egyptian position again at about midnight (2100 GMT) with small arms, homemade grenades and three rocket-propelled grenades, said Maj. Budge.

An hour later, Somali gunmen fired on the position again with small arms. The fighting continued off and on until about 3 a.m. (0000 GMT), when Somali gunmen got to within 100 metres of the position, Maj. Budge said. One Somali was wounded in the last fire-fight, but was recovered and taken away by a group of unarmed Somalis.

Italian embassy attacked

Up to 30 Somali gunmen attacked the Italian embassy in north Mogadishu on Friday and soldiers inside killed at least one Somali when they returned fire, military officials said.

The Italians, scheduled to pull out their troops along with other Western peacekeepers before the end of March and evacuate their embassy, drove off two assaults by the gunmen who quickly vanished when U.S. and Italian helicopters took to the skies.

Near the southern Somali port of Kismayu, rival clan militias skirmished while fighters allied to Gen. Aided closed in on the contested area, U.N. military officials said.

"Because we are withdrawing, our soldiers are on a high state of readiness and could deal with the attack," Italian Lieutenant-Colonel Gianfranco Scalas said of the embassy raid.

Col. Scalas, who said a second Somali was wounded, speculated that the Somalis were trying to loot the embassy. "We did not have any warning of an attack, but since they know we're going to leave the embassy they may have anticipated our withdrawal to try to get hold of material," he said.

Somali witnesses said the attack was the work of former embassy employees who were disgruntled over their final pay-off.

Helicopters from a flotilla of ships off the coast covering the withdrawal swooped about over the broken city at dusk in a scene recalling the days last year when U.N. forces were locked in a feud with Gen. Aided's militias.

The U.S. joint task force and Italian helicopters and a UNOSOM (U.N. Operation in Somalia) ground patrol failed to find any perpetrators, said Maj. Budge.

The attack could be a taste of coming chaos in the capital as thousands of American, Italian and German forces withdraw from Somalia ahead of a March 31 deadline and armed militias take over the lawless streets once more.

Italy moved its troops north from the Somali capital last July after a furious row with the U.N. and the United States



Hamas activists in the Gaza Strip reenact the massacre in Hebron (AFP photo)

Syrian Jews uneasy

DAMASCUS (AP) — The Syrian authorities have intensified security to protect the country's small Jewish community following a death threat, a senior Jewish cleric said Friday.

Deputy Chief Rabbi Youssef Jajati said the threat that Jewish blood would be spilled was contained in a pamphlet secretly placed in Jewish houses and shops.

A U.S. State Department announcement Thursday said department officials had checked with the U.S. embassy in Damascus and were informed Syrian authorities were aware of the threat and "had taken actions to protect Jewish residents."

Rabbi Jajati, who is one of the Jewish leaders that function as links between the community and the government, said the authorities had "shown great concern over the threat and have taken all necessary precautions."

He said the precautions included intensified security patrols and guards around the community's synagogues, houses, shops and factories.

The threat has upset Jewish residents, even though Rabbi Jajati called it "no more than children's game."

Many Jewish youngsters told the Associated Press they were afraid of the threat. Some who already had obtained exit visas but had preferred to remain in Syria, said they were now eager to leave the country as soon as possible.

According to the Jewish organisations in the United States, the pamphlet described the Jews as criminals and in an apparent reference to the attack by a Jewish extremist on a mosque in Hebron Feb. 25, called Jews cowards who "shoot bullets on the victims when they are praying."

Threatening revenge, the leaflet ended with the declaration that "the blood of all Jews living in Syria will be spilled starting on Sunday, the 13th of March 1994."

The threat came the week after some 25 Syrian Jews who had emigrated to the United States came back to Syria, reportedly after failing to adapt to the new environment.

Rabbi Jajati said Friday that the remaining 850 to 950 Syrian Jews in the country had recently been given exit visas. Jewish merchant Jacob Bekas said he was the first to alert the Syrian authorities about the threat, and he said they had taken the "necessary security precautions to protect the lives of the Jewish citizens."

"Despite our worry and unease as a result of the threat, I have decided to stay here, in my hometown," he said.

Palestinian anger grows despite Israeli threats

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Marwan Jawarish — aged three and dressed as a commando — aimed his toy submachinegun at a group of Israeli soldiers and toddlers towards them.

Embarrassed, they walked from the Palestinian boy.

"This is the first Israeli withdrawal," one Arab man shouted to the sound of rare laughter and cheers on a main East Jerusalem street on Friday.

The taunt was just one sign of rising tensions and militancy following the Hebron massacre of about 60 Jewish settlers by a Jewish settler with an automatic rifle.

The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal signed last September has been losing ground fast, a casualty of the mosque killings and frustrations at the delay in implementing an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Marwan's father, Khaled, bought the boy his commando suit and took him five months ago to street celebrations over the peace deal. He now thinks it could be dead.

"We did not think at the time that there would be any massacre," Khaled said. "I am afraid the peace process is over. We are being shot like birds."

Several Palestinians in the small crowd cheered and some jeered at the soldiers, who walked away to avoid being filmed by television cameras confronting a boy.

"The only alternative is an Islamic state. Only Islam can bring a solution (to the Palestinian problem)," said a 20-year-old youth who declined to be identified.

About 10 people voicing opposition to the peace process drowned out a lone Palestinian

who spoke a few metres away in its favour outside the walls of the Old City.

Despite the initialising in Cairo last month of another agreement on security arrangements, the September peace deal remains ink on paper. No date set for the start of the Israeli pullout.

The mosque massacre a week ago has led to PLO demands for international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who had agreed to put off discussions on the fate of some 140 Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, is under pressure from his people to raise the subject now.

The nearly two million Palestinians in the occupied territories, most under army curfews since the massacre, also want the army to start leaving soon.

AP finds 30 killed
Thirty Palestinians were shot to death by Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein in the Hebron mosque massacre, rather than the higher figures reported earlier, according to an Associated Press check conducted Saturday.

The figure was compiled by speaking with the relatives of all people initially reported dead by hospital officials in the confusion right after the Feb. 25 bloodbath.

It emerged that several people registered as dead had only been wounded. One victim was counted twice, under two different names, and one man who was killed a day after the massacre was counted as a victim of Goldstein.

However, it is still possible the final death toll could change because Palestinians have said at least four massacre victims were buried without being taken to a hospital for certification of death.

Jewish settlers play cat-and-mouse with army in W. Bank

KFAR TAPUAH, occupied West Bank (AP) — When the army showed up outside David Axelrod's front door with an order banning him from Palestinian areas and demanding his gun, he clambered out the bedroom window. Uzi in hand.

The 27-year-old native of Queens, New York, and other fugitive militants are finding it easy to dodge arrest and even pop up on clandestine TV interviews, mocking the government's efforts to round them up.

"If they want to jail me let them find me. The same goes for my guns. Let them sweat it out and find them," said Axelrod, a leader of the Kahane Lives movement, one of the offshoots of the extremist Kach movement that calls for transferring Arabs out of the occupied territories.

The Palestinians have demanded that the settlers be disarmed before they will return to the peace talks, condemning the steps taken to date as insufficient. The U.S. has encouraged steps against the settlers.

Disarming settlers will be a difficult, if not impossible task. Weapons are common here. Nearly all Israeli men serve in the military reserves, hitchhiking or riding public buses to and from their units with their government-issued guns in hand. Illegal weapons are also readily available.

The government does not want to disarm settlers completely, leaving them vulnerable to attacks. So it has limited itself to trying to confiscate the government-issued automatic weapons. In the Hebron massacre Feb. 25, Dr. Baruch Goldstein, an American Kiyat Arba settler, used his army weapon to gun down at least 60 Palestinians in a mosque.

The Israeli cabinet decided last Sunday to use emergency powers to arrest the leaders of militant Jewish organisations and confiscate weapons. It also empowered the army to bar some Jewish settlers from entering Arab areas.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pledged to study whether it was possible to outlaw the Kach organisation and its various offshoots, but said legal difficulties had to be examined.

The army announced that in addition to six arrest warrants, orders were issued to take automatic weapons away from 18 other settlers. Only two settlers have been detained, and army spokesmen said other figures were not available.

Both police and army officers complained about a lack of coordination among the secur-

ity forces, suggesting this was one reason for the delay.

Israel has held hundreds of Palestinians without trial during the course of the uprising against occupation which began in 1967.

Ehud Sprinzak, a Hebrew University of Jerusalem political scientist who specialises in right-wing extremists, said Rabin's government was caught off guard by the attack, adding that the cat-and-mouse game made the government's crackdown "look like a joke."

Uri Dromi, director of the government press office, said the police had been tied up trying to control unrest, but would carry out the new orders within days.

"We will get those people and the arms," he told the Associated Press.

At Tapuah, Axelrod said about 20 army and police officers showed up around 10:30 p.m. (2030 GMT) Thursday and one shot into air in front of his house.

"They wanted people to think it was a terrorist attack so they would come out with their weapons. Then they started banging on doors," said Axelrod, who got his Uzi from the Israeli army, where he is a first sergeant in the reserves.

Axelrod said after he went out a window he stayed in the settlement until the convoy of four military vehicles departed. The army left behind letters for four Tapuah residents linked to the movement Kahane Lives, barring them from travelling to the Hebron area, including the settlement Kiyat Arba.

"I have no intention of avoiding the place, especially since Kiyat Arba has the grave of an important Jew. I visit there regularly to pray at the grave of Baruch Goldstein," said Axelrod.

While he spoke Friday the only army visible was the soldier a few hundred metres away guarding the gate of this settlement, about 12 kilometres south of the West Bank city of Nablus.

Other fugitives have shown up on television. Baruch Marzel, the leader of Kach, told state-run Israel Television: "All the wanted are in contact with each other. They are enjoying themselves. This is a holiday."

Settlers argue that if the measures had been taken against the militants before the Hebron attack, it could still have taken place since Goldstein had dropped his political work.

"They really have no idea who is who here," said Reuven Ben-David, a Tapuah resident who left his native Queens 10 years ago. "It's like the end of the movie Casablanca when the guy says round up the usual suspects."

Oilmen in Yemen face dangers

SANAA (AP) — Western oilmen are coming under attack by heavily armed raiders they believe are seeking to force them to abandon operations that are vital to Yemen's economic development.

The oilmen — mainly Americans, Canadians and Frenchmen — are reluctant to talk publicly about the attacks. But several told The Associated Press they believe the raids are part of a systematic campaign of intimidation, possibly organised from outside Yemen.

France's Liberation daily reported in October that President Francois Mitterrand was deeply concerned about the attacks on French oilmen "by Yemeni tribesmen allied with Saudi Arabia."

The Saudis have been at odds with the Yemenis for decades. That friction intensified in 1990, when Yemen refused to support the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq for invading Kuwait.

The Saudi government has in the past armed Yemeni tribes along the poorly defined, long-disputed border. But officials contacted by the AP in Saudi Arabia expressed surprise at any suggestion that their country was involved in the attacks. They spoke only on condition of anonymity.

The collapse of Yemen's oil industry would devastate the country's economy and likely sound the death knell of the increasingly fractious May 1990 merger between conservative, tribal North Yemen and the socialist South.

Current production is around 335,000 barrels a day and is expected to hit 800,000 in the next few years.

The Hunt-Yemen Oil Co., a subsidiary of the Dallas-based Hunt Oil Co. and France's

Total have been the main targets of the oilfield attacks. They are among some 20 foreign oil companies operating in Yemen, where Hunt discovered oil 10 years ago.

Hunt's Yemen general manager, George Slaughter, like other oil company chiefs contacted by the AP, declined to discuss the attacks on the record.

Bernard Isautier, president of Canadian Occidental Petroleum, also refused comment on the security problem during a January visit.

"It's a young democracy," he said. "And as we all know, democracy doesn't arise suddenly. It's an evolving process and, by any standard, Yemen is performing quite well."

Unruly tribesmen, who the government has never been able to control, have for years hijacked cars at gunpoint and kidnapped foreigners to force the government to redress grievances or secure oil company jobs.

But senior oil executives and Western diplomats, insisting on anonymity, said the pattern of attacks has changed in recent months to raids and bombings they say are too well organised and executed to be the work of tribesmen alone.

"They just came out bombing and shooting now," one company manager said. "That's not the attitude of people who want to bargain."

In one of the heaviest attacks, more than 50 raiders with machine-guns and anti-tank rockets attacked a logistics base operated by Total in the Shabwa region of southern Yemen last September.

In the 50-minute dawn assault, at least one Yemeni guard was killed and several were wounded. The raiders

knocked out the camp's communications centre and a helicopter.

Total halted operations until the government pledged army protection, but oilmen say it is ineffective.

Western security men, former soldiers hired by the oil companies to combat the attacks, said the Shabwa raid bore all the hallmarks of having been planned and carried out by trained military personnel.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has linked the recent kidnapping of oil company employees with his political feud with his main rival, Vice-President Ali Salem Beedh.

He said in a recent interview: "This comes in a series of actions to tarnish the image of Yemen and we know who's behind these subversive incidents."

But the oilmen suspect the attacks are instigated from outside, arguing that the tribesmen themselves would, like the country, lose economically if the oil companies pull out.

In May 1992 and August 1993, Saudi Arabia warned Hunt, France's ELF-Aquitaine and four other Western oil companies to stop operations in border areas.

Riyadh said they were trespassing on its land, tantamount to a Saudi claim to a large swathe of what has long been considered Yemeni territory. Some companies scaled back their operations, but exploration continued and new finds made.

After the Total attack, President Mitterrand was sufficiently alarmed to fly to Saudi Arabia to meet King Fahd in October while en route to a conference on Mauritius to discuss the threat to French oil interests.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Feature film: "L'Autre"
18:00	News in French
18:15	Pointe Sur
18:30	News in Hebrew
18:45	News in Arabic
19:00	You Bet Your Life
19:15	News in English
19:30	Documentary: "Out of the Past"
19:45	Island Son
PRAYER TIMES	
04:37	Fajr
05:54	(Sunrise) Duha
11:47	Dhuhr
13:05	"Asr
17:29	Maghreb
18:56	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweileh, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 627285	
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church, Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church, Tel. 630851, Tel. 626543	
Armenian Catholic Church, Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church, Tel. 771321	
St. Ephraim Church, Tel. 771751	
Assiuta International Church, Tel. 625250	
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tel. 624324	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation, Tel. 684195	
The Latter-Day Saints, Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth, Tel. 675601	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman, Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Min./Max. temp. 6/13	
Amman 14/22	
Deserts 5/16	
Jordan Valley 11/20	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN: Dr. Mohammad Shugair 652693	

Dr. Ramzi Mawri	794784	Highway Police	843402	Palestine, Shmeisat	664171/4	Airport Tel. (08)23300-5, where it should always be verified.
Dr. Khalil Jhali	740740	Traffic Police	896390	Shmeisat Hospital	669131	
Dr. Mohammad Omar	612232	Public Security Department	63021	University Hospital	845845	
Firas pharmacy	661912	Hovel Complaints	625800	Al-Mushtaq Hospital	667279	
Ferdous pharmacy	783336	Price Complaints	661176	The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37	
Al Asma pharmacy	637055	Water and Sewerage	897467	Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6	
Nairoush pharmacy	623676	Complaints	787111	Italian, Al-Muljareh	771701/3	
Al Salam pharmacy	636730	Amman Municipality	787111	Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26	Baghdad (RJ)
Shmeisat pharmacy	637660	Complaints	787111	Army, Marka	891611/15	Aqaba (RJ)
Nairoush pharmacy	623672	Telephone Information	121	Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50	Damascus (RJ)
Najib pharmacy	847632	(directory assistance)	121	Amal Hospital	674155	Jeddah (RJ)
		Central Amman Telephone	623101	ZARQA:		Larnaca (RJ)
		Repairs	623101	Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
Dr. Mohammad Khaldi	739949	Mobile Telephone Repairs	661101	Zarqa National Hospital	(09)902500	Frankfurt (RJ)
Aleqda pharmacy	(-)	Jordan Television	774111	Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)983732	Beirut, Doha (RJ)
		Radiation	774111	Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)980990	18:28
ZARQA:		Water Authority	681010	IBRD:		16:45
Dr. Yousof Abu As'ad	989000	Jordan Electricity Authority	815165	Princess Basma Hospital	(02)727333	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
Khalafat pharmacy	985417	Electric Power	636381	Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)727333	16:55
		Company	636381	Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)347100	Cairo (RJ)
		RJ Flight Information	06-53200	AQABA:		17:00
		Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-53200	Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
						17:25
						17:40
						Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
						18:35
						Athens (RJ)
						19:15
						Frankfurt (RJ)
						19:50
						Vienna (RJ)
						20:40
						Rome (RJ)
						21:15
						Aqaba (RJ)

Cabinet reconsidering five-day work week

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday is reconsidering a five-day work week for government offices, according to a statement following a regular Cabinet session Saturday.

The statement said the ministers will examine the effects of changing to an eight-hour work day with two days off at a later session.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan reported to the cabinet on the outcome of last week's visit to Jordan by Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias who is also the current president of the European Union (EU).

During the Greek envoy's brief visit, said Mr. Al Hassan, he discussed EU-Jordanian relations and agreement was reached on providing Jordan with credit facilities amounting to 124 million European Currency Units (ECU).

Mr. Al Hassan reported that

Mr. Papoulias promised that Greece would study a Jordanian request to allow Royal Jordanian (RJ) landing rights at Salonik airport in northern Greece and for increased trade cooperation between the two countries.

Also at Saturday's session, the ministers endorsed the 1994 general budgets of semi-independent institutions which include the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Jordanian Ports Corporation and the Housing and Urban Development Department, the Free Zones Corporation, the Civil Service Consumer Corporation, the Post Office Savings Fund, the Institute of Public Administration, the Water Authority, the Aqaba Railway Corporation, the Jordan Investment Corporation, the Public Transport Corporation, the Vocational Training Corporation, the Aqaba Region Authority, the Hijaz Railway, the Jordan Academy of Arabic and the National Aid Fund.

Donations to Hebron massacre victims reach JD 700,000 in Amman alone

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The national committee charged with fund-raising for the victims of the Hebron massacre has collected more than JD 700,000 in the Greater Amman area alone, according to Ahmad Helayel, the committee's official spokesperson.

Dr. Helayel said the figure is expected to rise further when collections from governorates have been counted.

Chief Islamic Justice and Committee Chairman Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi will chair a meeting of heads of fund-raising sub-committees in Amman and the governorates

to assess the situation, Dr. Helayel said.

Dr. Helayel told the Jordan Times the monies will be distributed via a special committee formed in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron made up of charitable societies and the Hebron municipality as well as the committee in Jordan.

Dr. Helayel, who is also Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs secretary general, said Israel has begun to erect a fence on Al Buraq wall within the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem. He said any tampering with the status quo in the holy places constitutes a flagrant violation of the sanctity of the holy mosque, considered the third holiest

shrine for Muslims.

Dr. Helayel described the fencing measure as part of Israel's drive to Judaize the city and overtake the Islamic holy sites.

Jordan plans to bring this development to the attention of the concerned international forums, he said.

As part of Israel's drive to interfere in Muslim religious rights, added Dr. Helayel, the occupation authorities Friday barred Muslims from entering the Aqsa Mosque and instead allowed Israeli settlers into the compound. He said the Israelis also barred Muslims from performing prayers at Al Ibrahim Mosque but allowed Jewish settlers in.

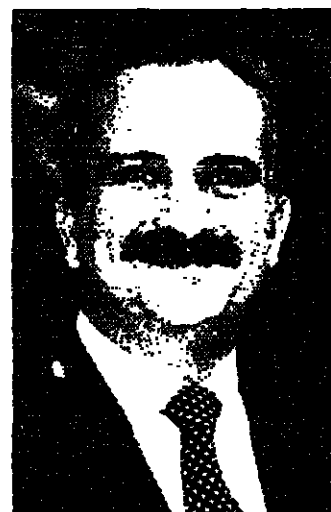
International forum to discuss civil defence work and change

AMMAN (Petra) — An international conference on civil defence will be held in Amman early next month under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Afif Al Ghoul.

Several issues related to social, political and technological changes and developments and their impact on civil defence work will be discussed by the participants, said Gen. Ghoul.

He said special attention will be given to environmental protection, dangers faced by civilian populations and measures to deal with major migrations.

During the conference an international exhibition of modern technological inventions used in civil defence operations will be organised, he

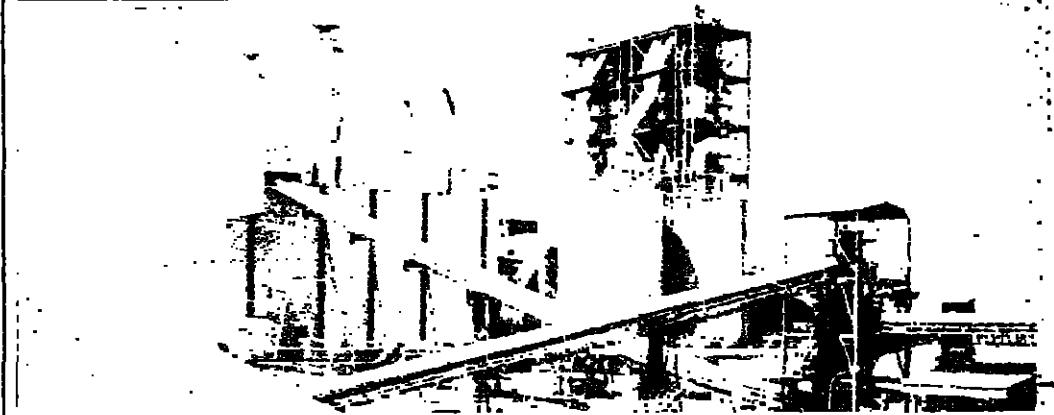


Gen. Ghoul said major international companies and local firms are expected to participate in the three-day exhibition.

The conference is organised by the Geneva-based International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) which was established in 1931 to intensify and coordinate the development and improvement of means and techniques to prevent and reduce the consequences of natural disasters in times of peace and the use of weapons in times of conflict.

The meeting, scheduled to start on April 3, will be attended by about 300 delegates from 45 nations, said Gen. Ghoul.

The conference, the fifth such gathering and the first to be held in a Middle East country, is to be followed by a two-day general assembly meeting, Gen. Ghoul added.



Jordan Cement Factories Company plant in Rashadieh (file photo)

Cement factories to implement pollution reduction programme in response to King's urging

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) is implementing a programme to drastically reduce the amount of pollution to the environment caused by falling cement dust and chimney smoke from its factories, JCFC Board Chairman Mohammad Saeed Abu Nowar announced Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at the company's head office in Fuhais where the main JCFC factories are located, Mr. Abu Nowar said the company Thursday signed contracts with German and Danish firms to implement the programme beginning around mid-1994 and continuing throughout next year.

The programme, which will introduce improvements to the

factories' ability to control and reduce the dust and smoke, is expected to cost a total of JD 32 million, and it will be implemented at the JCFC factories in Fuhais and Rashadieh in southern Jordan, said Mr. Abu Nowar.

The equipment to be installed is designed to absorb the dust and smoke rising from the kilns, Mr. Abu Nowar explained.

When the factories were established in 1951, to produce 1,500 tonnes of cement daily, not much attention was given to the environment and no precautionary measures were taken to protect it and the local residents, Mr. Abu Nowar said.

He said the current production is 5,700 tonnes per day, and there is an urgent need to

control the dust and smoke.

Also addressing the press conference was Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Akaileh who said the ministry followed the JCFC's studies and prepared a comprehensive report on the environment in Jordan taking into account all forms of pollution including the dust from the cement factories.

The minister said a law based on the National Environment Strategy will be passed very soon.

He said Saturday's press conference was held in response to a call by His Majesty King Hussein to correct the environmental hazards resulting from the JCFC's operations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Yemeni leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein delegated Jordan's Ambassador to Yemen Fayez Al Rabie to offer his condolences to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh over the death of Abdullah Al Sallal, former president of Yemen, who died early Saturday. Mr. Sallal was one of the Yemeni leaders who attended the Feb. 20 signing of the reconciliation and reform agreement in Amman. King Hussein also sent a cable to Ali Abdullah Al Sallal, condoling him over the death of his father.

Public asked to watch for new moon

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Islamic Justice Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi Saturday called on the public to watch for the new moon of Sahwal Friday evening, March 11. The new moon marks the start of Eid Al Fitr, ending the holy month of Ramadan. The chief justice requested those who spot the new moon to report to the Sharia court and take an oath to that effect.

50 Italian tourists visit ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Ghassan Mifteh, Ministry of tourism secretary general, Saturday met with an Italian tourist group which include nine writers invited to visit Jordan's attractions. Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini, who was present at the meeting, said Jordan is a major attraction in the Middle East for Italian tourists in view of its security and political stability. The ministry said that the 50-member group represents the first of several tourist groups which will be visiting Jordan on a weekly basis in cooperation with an Italian tourist and travel agency.

JEDCO completes 3 market studies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Saturday said that it has completed three studies on the possibilities of marketing national products in Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria. It said currently JEDCO teams are conducting four studies on markets in Islamic states of Central Asia with the aim of introducing Jordanian products in these countries.

CDD deals with 1,838 emergencies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) Saturday said it responded to 1,838 emergencies in February. It said that 50 people died in February as a result of these emergencies.

Lands department collects JD3.7m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lands and Survey Department Saturday announced it collected JD3,767,698 during February, registering 10 per cent less than fees collected in January. Department Director Ali Gharaibeh said that February's collections, however, registered a four per cent increase over fees collected in February 1993. The fees are collected on real estate transactions.

Blast convict's father questions lawyer's about-face

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The devastated father of a Jordanian convicted in the New York World Trade Centre bombing is agonising over why his son's lawyer did a volte-face in his summation, which he believes led to the conviction of not only his son but also another three defendants.

Amin Salameh, father of Mohammad Salameh (26), who, along with three others, was found guilty by a jury in a New York court Friday, is also bitter that no Jordanian organisation or individual stepped forward to help him or advise him.

He said he had obtained a three-month-valid U.S. visa in September, but did not have enough money to buy a ticket to New York to visit his son and see whether there was anything he could do to help establish his innocence.

Mr. Salameh, a retired army lieutenant who hails from Bedia village in the West Bank, works for Amman Customs Clearing Agency to provide for his family of 11 children younger to Mohammad and their mother with his army pension and a JD 120 monthly salary.

"I did not leave a single known door unknocked," he told the Jordan Times. "But there was nobody who was willing to help, including those who call themselves human rights activists and experts in law."

"They had no interest in the case, and many appeared anxious not to have anything to do with it," he said.

"My question to them is: 'Isn't every accused entitled to a fair trial? And if so, was my son given a fair trial? Did any Jordanian lawyer take the slightest interest to find out whether the trial followed the due process of the law?'"

Mr. Salameh, 51, who fled his village along with his family in the 1967 war, believes that neither his son nor any of the other three is guilty, and that Israeli agents seeking to distort the image



Mohammad Salameh

of Arabs and Muslims had a hand in the affair and entrapped the accused in the case.

"My instinct and conscience tells me there is much more to the entire affair than we have been told," he said, adding that the summation of his son's lawyer, Richard Precht, was the most damaging element that led to the guilty verdict.

"Throughout the trial, the lawyer was very good and made a very good case of Mohammad's defence. But, for some unknown reasons, he took a complete turn in the last minute," said Mr. Salameh, who lives in Zarqa.

"Perhaps he was coerced, pressured or forced into doing that," he said. "But it does not change the fact that my son and three others now face life in prison."

He was referring to Mr. Precht's closing argument that Mohammad Salameh was an unwitting victim of another defendant who trapped him into taking part in the Feb. 26 explosion at the twin-towers. The blast killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

Describing Ramzi Yousef, an accused who remains at large, as an "evil genius," Mr. Precht asserted that Mohammad Salameh was duped by Mr. Yousef. "Mohammad Salameh was terribly misled, terribly manipulated... by a person who came into this country with a single mission, to destroy American targets," Mr. Precht told the court on Feb. 17.

Mr. Precht was the only

defence lawyer who presented such an argument, which implied that there was a bomb plot and Mr. Salameh was part of it. All others maintained the total innocence of their clients and at least one of them accused Mr. Precht of undermining his client's defence.

Mr. Salameh said his son contacted him over the phone on Thursday, less than 24 hours before the verdict was announced.

"He sounded very confident that all would be acquitted," Mr. Salameh said. "He told me he would be with us here in a few days."

"Even the lawyer, who had called me a few days earlier, told me the same thing. He said the charges were unfounded and unsubstantiated," said Mr. Salameh.

The ex-serviceman noted that Mohammad had filed a petition to the judge that Mr. Precht's incriminatory summation did not represent his views and that the lawyer was no longer his legal counsel.

"But the court decided to accept the lawyer's argument that there was no change in his status as Mohammad's counsel," Mr. Salameh said. "I don't know why (Precht) did such an injustice to my son, who always maintained his innocence and never told the lawyer anything of the nature that was presented to the court," said Amin Salameh.

"My limited knowledge of things tells me a lawyer is not supposed to invent things and present them in court on behalf of his client," he said. "Where did he get the notion that Mohammad had any part, writing or otherwise, in the attack?"

Mr. Salameh said his son, who has been in touch with the family over the phone from his prison, "always swore by God and assured me that he had nothing to do with the bombing and that he was never involved in any subversive plots."

"I brought up and educated my son, and I believe him."

Abu Ghanimeh charges are baseless, say three targeted Islamist deputies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three Islamist deputies have described their differences with a former member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and former member of the 11th Parliament as personal and baseless, and attributed the conflict to campaigning prior to the Nov. 8 elections.

Former Islamist Deputy Ziad Abu Ghanimeh accused three of his former IAF colleagues, Hamzeh Mansour, Abdul Rahim Al Ekour and Mohammad Oweidah, of slander, defamation of character and libel and filed a legal suit against them.

Justice Minister Taher Hikmat addressed the Parliament requesting legal procedures to facilitate their trial.

Responding to Mr. Abu Ghanimeh's charges, the three deputies sent a memo to the House stating what they claim are the reasons behind the charges and refuting the allegations.

The deputies said that during the 1993 elections the claimant had attempted to win the support of Mr. Ekour and Mr. Oweidah. According to their memo, Mr. Abu Ghanimeh sent a letter to the IAF rejecting Mr. Mansour's right

to run for elections in the Second District.

The deputies said Mr. Ghanimeh claimed that Mr. Mansour failed to get the nomination in his own district of Sahab and therefore ran in Mr. Abu Ghanimeh's district.

According to the memo, Mr. Abu Ghanimeh won only four votes of nomination from the IAF. The deputies said Mr. Abu Ghanimeh contested the IAF General Assembly's decision and sent a letter of protest to the IAF executive bureau, which in turn rejected his protest.

When he failed to influence the IAF's decisions, the memo continued, Mr. Abu Ghanimeh resorted to the press and started a defamation, libel and slander campaign against those whom he thought had failed him.

Against this backdrop, the memo said, the IAF's executive bureau took a decision to expel Mr. Abu Ghanimeh from the IAF.

Earlier, the Muslim Brotherhood movement also expelled him from membership, the deputies' memo said. The memo said the three deputies refrained from responding to Mr. Abu Ghanimeh's provoca-



Ziad Abu Ghanimeh

tions, and stressed that his accusations are baseless and lack objectivity.

The deputies welcomed the motion to present the case to the House and to have it considered by the concerned judges. "This case aims only to settle previous personal accounts on the background of nomination for election and to provide material for the media with the aim of affecting our parliamentary performance," the deputies said.

The House, which had earlier referred the case to its Judiciary Committee, is this week expected to review the committee's report.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Ayasrah at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by artist Shaker Al Girmil entitled "Studies in the Jordanian Environment" at the Phoenix Art Gallery for Art and Culture.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Jalal Arigat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).
- ★ Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ "Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funnat of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orthal Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "The Outlaw Josey Wales" at the American Center at 2:30 p.m. (135 minutes).

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Promise behind the scene

IT MIGHT still be too close to call, but all indicate a point to the inevitability of providing some kind of international protection to the Palestinians under Israeli occupation and the elevation of the issue of settlements on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israeli peace agenda. PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath had a satisfactory session with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington Friday at the conclusion of which he stated that the U.S. now backs the proposal to place armed international observers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We are satisfied that we have the serious concerns of the United States reflected by the Secretary and State Department people and the President," Shaath said at the end of his encounter with Christopher.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has also been busy floating ideas on how to put in place an effective international regime in a bid to defuse the crisis that erupted in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre. Ghali has been working behind the scenes to lobby for the idea ever since the massacre made it urgent and necessary.

Meanwhile the European Community (EC) is moving in the same direction, as Greek Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias, whose country holds the European Union (EU) presidency, confirmed during his recent visit to the region that Europeans are very sympathetic to the proposal of providing security to Palestinians.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has also urged the upgrading of the issue of Israeli settlements on its current position on the peace agenda. "We believe the issue of the settlements and of their eventual regrouping should be the object of negotiations between the parties," Juppe said in Paris on Friday at the conclusion of his meeting with PLO top negotiator Yasser Abed Rabbo.

Under the Oslo accord, the future of the settlements would come to the negotiating table only three years after Palestinian self-rule begins in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The stage appears to be set, therefore, to accommodate the Palestinians' reasonable and legitimate demands for greater security for their people as well as for urgent consideration of the entire settlements file. It would prove to be a positive development indeed should the projected U.N. Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre incorporate language to that effect. Irrespective of the earlier PLO-Israeli agreement to shelve the Israeli settlements issue till three years later, there are now new realities on the ground to press ahead with an immediate consideration and resolution of this timebomb. The mutual interests of Israel and the PLO stand to benefit from an expeditious resolution of the settlements problem since it stands to derail everything else agreed upon between the parties, if it is allowed to fester and simmer for an additional three years. Besides, the Israeli colonies in Palestinian territories go to the heart of the Palestinian-Israeli peace deal and the sooner they are addressed the better it would be for all sides.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NO ONE can imagine how the peace process can be conducted against a background of terrorism and massacres committed against the Palestinian people, said Al Dustour daily Saturday. The Palestinians are continually subjected to injustice, repression and intimidation in their own land and have no hope for escaping the genocide or dreaming of becoming independent as long as the occupation lasts and the acts of terrorism continue, the paper said. The ugly crime at Al Ibrahim Mosque has exposed the real nature of the Israelis and rendered false their claim of seeking peace with the Palestinians and the Arabs at large, said the paper. There is no doubt that the Palestinian people are in desperate need for protection and guarantees for their security in the face of their Zionist terrorists, the enemies of human rights and peace, continued the paper. As for the peace process, it will fall short of achieving the aspired peace despite the Arab parties' readiness to pursue all efforts towards that objective simply because all the endeavours are thwarted by Israel through its atrocities and procrastinations at the negotiating table, added the paper. Only when the United Nations and the world community provide the essential elements for peace and guarantee Israel's abidance by U.N. principles, said the paper, can the Arabs believe that the way for peace is open. Otherwise, peace talks under the present conditions are like building castles in the air.

SALEH AL QALLAB, a columnist in Al Dustour, condemned the reported attacks on foreign tourists visiting the Kingdom and called for drastic action to deter further attacks. Assaults on the tourists after every mishap and massacre that occurs in the occupied Arab lands does not require mere statements of regret but rather concerted action on the part of all the concerned authorities to prevent further attacks on the tourists who are innocent citizens and have no relation what so ever with the Israeli actions, said the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Faded Fanek

Arabs not Middle Easterners!

ARAB INTELLECTUALS are fond of picking up words and idioms thrown on them, from time to time, by the West. We sometimes stick to the usage of those words and idioms more than those who coined them. One of the major examples that come to mind is the "new world order," which was invented by the speech writers of the ex-president of the United States George Bush. Arab intellectuals picked up the term, which became a household term and an integral part of their language, even though America itself abandoned the term, which was never used by its new President Bill Clinton, who deleted "the new world order" from his dictionary.

The resounding fall of the old world order of bipolarity does not necessarily mean more than the introduction of a new transitional and liquid period, when all rules and regulations are temporarily suspended, ignored, distorted or made one-sided, and replaced by the law of jungle, until such time when the international society is able to produce, and agree on, a real new and durable world order.

Something similar is happening in regard to the new term "Middle East market" or "Middle East order." Both terms were invented by Western think-tanks, based in Washington, Boston, or Tel-Aviv. Our politicians and intellectuals became busy with these terms although, so far, there is no project or draft of Middle East market presented to any Arab country to consider.

As a matter of fact, the Middle East was never defined for the purposes of the so called Middle East market. It can be as big as the whole Arab World plus Turkey and Iran, or as small as Israel, Palestine and Jordan (Penalux), or anything in between.

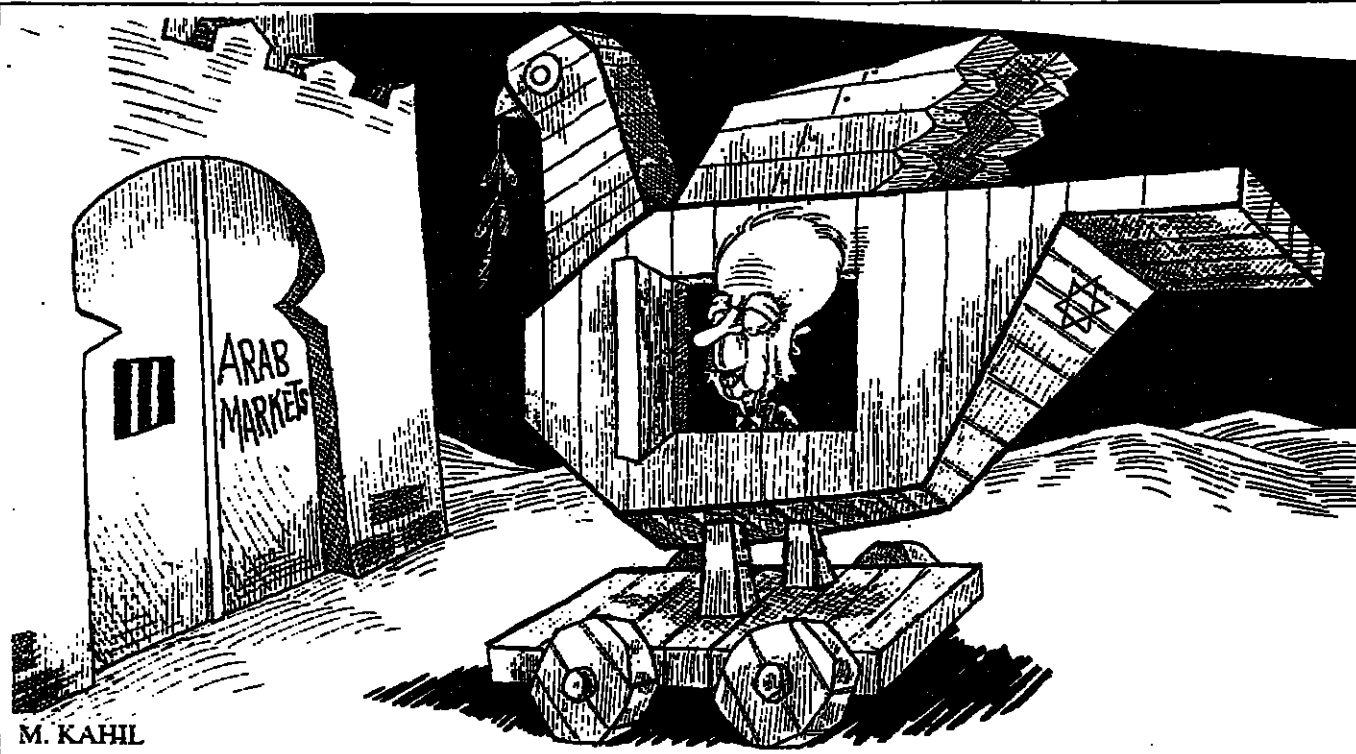
At the outset, we should distinguish between a Middle East market and a Middle East order. The "market" in this context has a commercial or economic nature. It may mean economic

integration, or removing barriers in the form of a free trade area, a customs union or a common market. The "order" on the other hand means common political and security institutions, such as transforming the Arab League into a Middle East league. The common factor among all versions of Middle East markets and orders is the inclusion of Israel and the removal of Arab identity to be replaced by a Middle East identity. We shall no more call ourselves Arabs but Middle Easterners! The relations between one Arab country and another will be the same like the relation between an Arab country and Israel, or, for that matter, Iran and Turkey.

It seems that Israel is not yet sure if it wants a Middle East market because it is not willing to open up its market for Arab labour, capital or less expensive goods. It definitely would like to see a Middle East order and become an integral part of the Middle East from a political and security viewpoints. In that case — a Middle East market can be taken for granted if and when Israel wanted it.

Israel, during the last 46 years, existed in the Middle East only from a geographical point of view. Politically, it is situated in America as the 51st state, while commercially and culturally it can be found somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and the United States.

The economic and political normalisation of relations, that may take place at the state level, subsequent to a peaceful settlement, should not necessarily mean the establishment of a Middle East market or a Middle East order, unless such set-ups were imposed on the Arab side, to give Israel a special leading role, exceeding its status as a normal country, such as Turkey or Cyprus, which have normal and peaceful relations with all Arab countries, without having to be included in the Arab political or security order, or admitted in the Arab common market.



M. KAHIL

Serbs remain tough foe despite losses

By Slobodan Lekic
The Associated Press

PALE. Bosnia-Herzegovina — Newfound NATO resolve combined with manpower and political problems are eroding the dominance Bosnian Serbs enjoyed in 23 months of war. But they remain a potent force the Bosnian army cannot defeat.

Without a negotiated solution, the war may turn into a stalemate with relatively stable, World War I-style front lines.

"The strategic initiative has been slipping from the Serbs' hands for some time now," said Milos Vasic, a Belgrade defence expert. "But the withdrawal of their guns from around Sarajevo under the threat of NATO bombing has publicly humiliated them, and forced them on the defensive for the first time."

Bosnian Serbs backed down and removed their guns when faced with the threat of NATO bombing.

Although they denied that the planes shot down by U.S. F-16s on Monday were theirs, the incident was a clear signal to the Bosnian Serbs that they will have to be careful using their air power in the future.

Fixed-wing planes and especially helicopters have been a vital part of the Bosnian Serbs' military operations. The helicopters have ferried men and material, evacuated the wounded and been used as gunships.

All of that has been a big boost against the Bosnian army, which has an advantage in infantry but virtually no aircraft or aircraft defenses.

During the first year of war, Bosnian Serbs, equipped by the Yugoslav army and commanded by Ratko Mladic, one of its most aggressive generals, steadily expanded the area under their control.

Armed with 800 tanks and armoured personnel carriers and 1,300 artillery pieces, they brushed aside the lightly armed Bosnian government police units that faced them.

But as the territory under their occupation increased to the present 70 per cent, the main weakness of the Bosnian Serbs became increasingly apparent: their relatively constricted manpower pool has never allowed them to put more than 80,000 soldiers in the field.

Those soldiers must both garrison the territory they

hold and defend a long front-line, Mr. Vasic said.

In contrast, the newly created army of the Muslim-led Bosnian government, though shackled by a lack of weapons, has vastly improved its capabilities, developing into an efficient light infantry force.

Its main weakness remains the lack of adequate fire support for the troops. Numbering about 150,000 men, the government side has 15 times less heavy weaponry than the Serbs.

Recent battlefield reverses have demonstrated to Serb commanders that their much-vaunted superiority in heavy armaments can no longer assure military victory.

"If the Muslims had the quantity of weapons we have, they would have kicked us out of Bosnia long ago," said Djoko Vukic, a Serb military policeman serving on the front near Olovo, in central Bosnia. Serb military policeman serving on the front near Olovo, in central Bosnia.

A major offensive against Olovo, ambitiously conceived to surround the government-held industrial centre of Tuzla in northeastern Bosnia, petered out in January after 45 days with heavy

losses and no tangible results.

Even the presence of Yugoslav army special forces could not shake government defenses.

Another development worrying Serb military leaders is the possibility that the Bosnian Croats, whose 30,000 men have been fighting against the government side for the past year, could forge an alliance with the government forces.

The Croats, who entered the war on the government side but later turned against their allies, are negotiating with the Muslim-led government on an alliance and a possible confederation.

If the talks are successful, Croat forces might rejoin the government forces in fighting the Serbs.

Despite this, the Bosnian Serb military remains capable of keeping up the pressure on the Sarajevo government to accept a peace accord that would leave the Serbs in possession of much of what they have conquered.

They apparently have re-deployed weaponry removed from around Sarajevo, and are likely to remain particularly effective against isolated and lightly defended Muslim pockets.

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuters

WASHINGTON — For a man who wanted to be America's domestic policy president, Bill Clinton has faced a fistful of foreign crises, and February has been one of the cruelest months on this score.

Most recently, the massacre of over 60 Palestinians by a Jew at a mosque on the West Bank on Friday has threatened to derail the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks.

In addition, February has also seen:

— A touch-and-go ceasefire in Bosnia following a U.S.-led NATO threat to launch air strikes followed by a shooting incident involving U.S. planes over Bosnia Monday morning

— The arrest of a high-ranking mole at the Central Intelligence Agency and fears that he may have shared damaging information with the Russians

— Balkiness from North

Foreign crisis for 'domestic policy' president

Korea in the face of repeated demands for international inspection of nuclear sites

— A U.S. visit by Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, which strained Washington's "special relationship" with Britain.

Former defence secretary Dick Cheney called Mr. Clinton's foreign policy "naïve" and "soft," and chortled a bit about Mr. Clinton's intention to focus on domestic affairs.

"Given what's going on in the Middle East and in Russia and in Bosnia and in Korea... President Clinton doesn't have the luxury that he thought he had when he came to office, that he could

ignore foreign policy issues or put them on the back burner," Mr. Cheney said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" programme.

Plainly, that was what Mr. Clinton had in mind during his 1992 campaign, when his aides took as their motto the phrase: "It's the economy, stupid" and they did not mean the world economy.

But if Mr. Clinton won the White House by focusing on domestic policies, he is being forced to focus on foreign affairs every time a new crisis erupts.

In the case of the West Bank Massacre, Mr. Clinton appeared in the White House briefing room within hours of

Friday's attack to call for renewed, continuous negotiations towards a Middle East peace.

His comments made even news broadcasts and front pages of newspapers across the United States. But two days later, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon cut short peace talks with Israel.

A U.S. official said this was a "temporary cooling-off period" and not a permanent breakdown, but Israel was disappointed to see Arab decision.

At the same time, Washington peace talks between Bosnian Muslims and Croats continued Sunday with some progress but no breakthroughs.

And Capitol Hill was alive with calls for cuts in aid to Russia in the wake of the CIA spy scandal and slow progress towards economic reforms.

Even Britain, for so long a rock-solid U.S. ally, is drawing Mr. Clinton's personal attention.

National or government broadcasting?

By Radi Alkhas

THE RECENT debate on the role of the official media, following His Majesty the King's remarks to members of Parliament at an Ifar banquet, has highlighted the need for change. But what kind of change must be effected and how can it be achieved?

A national broadcasting concept has to be based on accuracy, objectivity, reliability and the pursuit of truth in disseminating information. It should cover issues with honesty, fairness and impartiality in all matters in the public domain. The view held by the majority has to be reflected, even if this majority is mostly silent. Minority views have to be respected as such, even if they are loud and aggressive. That means suitable proportion of transmission time has to be allocated to both parties.

A commitment of this kind requires professional integrity, avoiding self-centred attitudes and personal obsessions with particular ideologies or prejudices.

In order to perform such a role, national broadcasting must:

— Be politically and financially independent.

— Have a dynamic management in the context of a growing and aggressive competition.

— Adapt strategies that correspond to the rapid evolution of the political, social and economic environment, and increase creative productivity.

The above is not far-fetched and is not difficult to achieve, taking into consideration the political will and the progressive democratic process in Jordan. In the past few years, with the blessing and support of His Majesty the King and the successive

governments, Jordan Radio & Television Corporation (JRTV) managed to pass a bye-law that went into effect in January. The bye-law exempts the corporation from the civil service regulations. This means an improved and competitive salary scale that allowed the corporation to employ creative and productive Jordanians who could not be hired before, and provided for flexibility in improving the salaries of the existing productive staff. In order to have financial independence, JRTV has submitted to the prime minister's office a draft bye-law, proposing that the budget of the corporation come from revenue of television tax (JD 1 per month) in addition to income from advertisement and other commercial enterprises.

Many of the present members of the staff are highly professional and can successfully perform all duties required from a national broadcasting corporation. Staff training should be highly emphasised. A training plan is being currently implemented to improve the professional standards of the existing and the newly appointed employees.

The existing JRTV law gives the minister of information the authority to formulate policies of the corporation. With our democratic process proceeding as well as it can, this law must be changed in order to accommodate the idea of a national broadcasting corporation.

We are not far from a national broadcasting system if we can change our perceptions of the past, and accept and respect a responsible dialogue among people with different views.

The writer is director general of Jordan Radio & Television Corporation

LETTERS

Waiting for Columbus!

To the Editor:

THE WORLD recently celebrated the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the New World. Although this discovery brought untold riches, it brought, in its wake, innumerable tragedies and hardships for the Muslims and Jews of Spain.

How ironic, that now, just over 500 years later, as the world stands on the verge of another discovery, the new world order, the same tragedies and hardships are replaying themselves all over the globe: in Bosnia where a Christian Slav is killing another Muslim, in Israel and Palestine where a Muslim is killing another Muslim, in Afghanistan where a Muslim is killing another Muslim and in Ireland where a Christian is killing another Christian.

The Muslims, Jews, Christians, and what not of God's creatures, look up to the United States for guidance and leadership. They are aware of what is happening to them, but are unable to remedy the "why" of what is happening. To them, the USA is not only the only military super-power; it is the super moral leader of the world.

Five hundred years ago Columbus discovered the New World. Five hundred years later, the world is still waiting for another Columbus to discover the new world order.

The U.S. president is the right man, at the right time and at the right place to be that Columbus.

Sincerely
Ludwig W. Tamari
Potomac, Maryland
the United States.

A 'bewildering' decision

To the Editor:

I FIND the fact that Jordan may choose not to show the film Schindler's List because it may "show sympathy for the Jews," and because people cannot be expected to show such sympathy in the wake of the Hebron massacre (Jordan Times, March 3-4), to be sad and bewildering.

Such a decision would miss one of that most valuable lessons we can possibly learn from such a tragedy as Hebron's. Until the lessons of the past are learned, they are destined to be repeated over and again.

One of the most important reasons for showing films such as Schindler's List is that we should never forget the horror and calculated intent of the holocaust. Films such as Schindler's List are, first and foremost, testimony to the inhumanity of man, wherever it occurs and whoever is the victim; be it the Jews of Europe, the Muslims of Bosnia or the Palestinians under occupation.

It is because this inhumanity is still with us today that it is not only desirable but essential that Schindler's List be shown at this time.

Mark Power Stevens
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Pitched battles in Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

These reflect the growing fury and frustration among the two million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with Israel for refusing to dismantle any of the 144 Jewish settlements that have now become a crucial factor in the peace equation.

The occupied territories remained sealed off by the army Saturday, fuelling Arab anger in the massacre's violent aftermath in which 27 people, all but two them Arabs, have perished.

In the settlements, Israelis were tightening security, with troops escorting settler convoys following army warnings that attacks are likely — and that the thinly-stretched military may not be able to thwart them.

The U.S. State Department Saturday warned Americans not to travel in the occupied territories and Arab Jerusalem because of the violence.

The army reported Saturday that four Palestinians were killed Friday — all shot while allegedly carrying automatic weapons or attacking Israelis with knives.

In the preceding week, nearly all those killed by troops were young Arabs.

Faisal Hussein, the PLO's top representative in the occupied territories, declared at the rally: "After the massacre, there has been a change in the ground rules."

Israel wants talks resumed

(Continued from page 1)

people." Asked if Mr. Christopher backed this proposal, Dr. Shaath said: "The resolution, including parts of it that are supported by the United States, will include international presence in the occupied territories."

Dr. Shaath said "modalities and timing" are still under discussion but "they will have to be security people. We're not talking about historians and psychoanalysts... the nature of their armaments is part of the modalities."

"We had positive discussions on these requirements (with the Americans) and we have not finished these discussions," he said.

"We want to resume the peace process as soon as possible and to do that we need that security enhancement," to protect Palestinians from Jewish extremists, he said.

Earlier, Mr. Christopher said in a television interview that he believes there is room for compromise so Palestinians and Israelis can resume peace talks.

He spoke as new violence flared in the territories, the continuing aftermath of last week's massacre.

"I think there is room for compromise. I think that because I think (Israeli) Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin is determined to resume the negotiations," Mr. Christopher said on ABC Television's "Good Morning America" programme.

But he rejected Palestinian demands that the issue of Jewish settlements in the West Bank be placed on the agenda of the current negotiations.

State Department deputy spokeswoman Christine Shelly said Mr. Christopher met for about 50 minutes with Dr. Shaath.

"They discussed the importance of resuming the (Israeli-PLO) negotiations and the secretary heard from Dr. Shaath about the whole range of Palestinian concerns and particularly as they relate to security," Ms. Shelly said.

Dr. Shaath continued talks during the afternoon with other members of the U.S. peace team headed by Dennis Ross, special coordinator for the Middle East peace process.

Certainly both the secretary and Dr. Shaath recognised the importance of getting the negotiations moving again. Our consultations with them about exactly when those talks can reconvene are still continuing," the deputy spokeswoman said. "There isn't a date fixed at this point."

While she could not provide a complete account of the talks with the PLO special envoy, Ms. Shelly said: "Certainly there is a very broad recognition of the need to provide adequate security for all Palestinians and Israelis as they work toward the peaceful resolution of their differences."

She noted the secretary has said on various occasions that

He said that the terms of the September accord "cannot be accepted any more... the settlements are a time bomb. We cannot accept they stay on our soil."

"If the settlements in Hebron and elsewhere remain, there will be more massacres," he declared.

Jibril Rajoub, a close aide of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat expelled by the Israelis from Hebron in 1986, warned in Tunis that if Israel does not uproot all its settlements in the occupied territories, "we'll distribute weapons to the Palestinians and return to the armed struggle."

"We don't want to live next to people who are killing us," he said in an interview with Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth daily published Friday. "No one can promise that Hebronites will not take revenge."

Mr. Arafat is under growing grassroots pressure to abandon the peace negotiations until Israel takes tough action against the 120,000 settlers, who have an estimated 20,000 automatic weapons, and agrees to deploy an armed international force to protect Palestinians.

Israel has said it will discuss allowing unarmed civilian observers, but will not talk about the settlements' future until 1996, under the terms of the September accord.

Mr. Hussein said Friday that Palestinians would not return to the talks until Israel addresses their demands, noting: "We haven't given up on peace. But... I'm afraid that this peace process is dying."

Havel's former prison holds tourists captive

By Jeremy Smith
Reuters

PRAGUE — Tourists needing a bed in one of the world's top travel destinations can now book in at a room with a difference — the cell where Czech President Vaclav Havel was imprisoned by the former Communist secret police.

For a mere \$33 a night, anyone can stay in the cells used to detain suspects such as dissident-turned-president Havel before they were subjected to sometimes grisly interrogations.

After the Communists were toppled in the bloodless 1989 "Velvet Revolution," a private tourist organisation, JVN Pension, turned the detention centre into a hotel, located in a prime position in the heart of Prague's historic old town.

"People like staying here... But we don't differentiate between Havel's cell and the rest," said Jiri Vidim, co-owner of JVN Pension.

"We don't write in any brochure that Vaclav Havel was locked up here many times, although it's a historical fact — (Prague) castle could say that we're missing the president's name for commercial purposes," he told Reuters.

Mr. Havel seems to be amused by all the interest.

"Personally I would rather sleep in a box than a prison, especially if I am paying the expenses," he said recently.

During a visit by Britain's Prince Charles to Prague in December 1992, Mr. Havel escorted the prince to the former prison to show him where he used to stay.

Mr. Havel's cell, number six, is often booked weeks in advance by Western tour groups. Their members stole a brass plate with the legend in English "President Vaclav Havel was jailed here" so many times that the owners replaced it with a plastic sign glued to the door.

Dr. Vidim has capitalised on the trend towards petty theft by selling copies of the sign at the hotel reception to guests, most of whom are students and backpackers, for 20 crowns (66 cents).

Approximately 70 million foreign tourists visited the Czech republic last year, earning the country an estimated \$1.5 billion in much-needed hard currency.

Although Prague remains a steady favourite with world travellers, the city is plagued by an accommodation short-

tage. Many central hotels exploit this by charging visitors over \$100 a night for a shabby 1950-style room.

The detention centre was originally a Franciscan convent before the Communists seized power in Czechoslovakia in 1948. The new government evicted the nuns and gave the building over to the widely-loathed secret police, the STB.

During the 1950s, the Communist authorities used it as a jail for long-term inmates. But in the years leading up to the "Velvet Revolution" they turned it into a holding pen for citizens suspected of "anti-state activity" prior to interrogation.

Demonstrators taking part in the waves of anti-government rallies in 1988 and 1989 were brought in droves to the convent's inner courtyard and made to stand for hours against the wall, Dr. Vidim said.

When the nuns regained possession of the convent after 1989, they found it destroyed by the STB's activities.

"The secret police stored their weapons and listening equipment in the church next door and even had a shooting range downstairs," Dr. Vidim said.

"The building was in a dreadful state, completely wrecked, but the nuns didn't have any money for repairs."

"They had to decide whether to go into business and rent out the space or leave it in the dreadful state — so they rented our part of the convent to be used as a hotel."

Dr. Vidim says the jail's clandestine nature has actually helped his hotel survive, as the rental agreement with the nuns stipulates there must be quiet in the building.

"The kids can go downstairs, drink, kick up a racket and nobody can hear them. I don't even want to know what goes on down there. The nuns would be really shocked."

The hotel management has taken pains to see that guests do not feel too oppressed by their environment by distributing delicate dried flower arrangements in all the rooms.

The Turkish-style, hole-in-the-ground toilets originally designed to prevent prisoners from flushing away incriminating documents — have been ripped out.

Dr. Vidim also gave the whole building a new lick of paint.

"It was all a bit grey," he said, "so we repainted everything in bright colours to make it friendly."

U.S. scholar says Islam and democracy can be compatible

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. policy towards the Islamic world should encourage political participation and human rights, says John Esposito, a distinguished U.S. scholar on Islam.

Dr. Esposito is a professor of religion and international affairs and the director of the Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. He discussed "Islam and the West," during a March 1 press briefing held at the U.S. Information Agency's Foreign Press Centre in Washington.

"The whole theme of Islam and the West is one that will continue to be a major concern in terms of foreign and in terms of international relations for some time," he said.

Asked whether Islam and democracy are compatible, Dr. Esposito said all religious traditions are capable of flexibility and change. Indeed, he said, a debate on this issue is now taking place throughout the Islamic world. This dynamic echoes what has occurred in other religious traditions

throughout history, he said.

"Notions of political participation are very strong in many parts of the Muslim world. There are many Muslims who in fact are advocating various forms of democracy and legitimating it... by reinterpreting traditional concepts of consultation and consensus and reapplying them in the modern period," he said.

"This debate... needs to be taking place on an even grander scale in many Muslim societies, in order for the kind of constructive transition to take place that I think many would like to see," Dr. Esposito added.

U.S. foreign policy should "foster... political participation and human rights," in the Islamic world, Dr. Esposito said. In doing so, he said, the United States must take an even-handed approach.

"We are very quick to want to implement democracy in some parts of the world and... seemingly quite silent in other parts of the world. I think an even-handed policy

is important," he said.

The diversity of the Islamic world and the role religion plays in each country must be taken into formulating U.S. foreign policy, Dr. Esposito stressed.

In looking at countries as diverse as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Malaysia, one sees "a variety of Muslim countries responding to the question of the role of religion in society in very diverse ways, not in a monolithic way," he noted.

U.S. policy should respond to this diversity, "rather than either seeing a monolithic threat or a monolithic salvation," he said.

"It's not our business to intervene or to promote certain brands of any ideology... Different Muslim societies should be free to work out models that are appropriate to their populations," he stressed.

Western perceptions of Islam have often been coloured by conflicts rather than by the realities of the Islamic world and Muslims, Dr. Esposito said. Today, he said, some columnists and experts view Islam as the new threat to the West in the

post-cold war era.

"If some look at Japan as the new threat, there are many others who see Muslims as constituting a global ideological alternative to the West," he said. The West, he added, "tends to look at the Muslim world through the Arab/Middle East, even though two-thirds of the world's Muslims are in Asia and Africa."

Dr. Esposito rejected the popular use of the term "Islamic fundamentalism" as a sweeping characterisation of such diverse regimes as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Iran and Libya.

"The problem is the term doesn't tell us much... Compare the governments of Saudi Arabia and Libya: conservative monarchy — radical populist state. It tells us very little," he said.

Dr. Esposito stressed, however, that this lack of understanding does not solely lie with the West. "There are far more scholars in the West, for example, and experts who know Islam and the Muslim world than there are counterparts in the Muslim world who know the West and... Christianity and Judaism," he said.

S. African army could have divided loyalties

By Anton Ferreira
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's white soldiers, long accustomed to defending apartheid, could soon be called upon to kill their own brothers and fathers to ensure that it dies.

Political leaders on all sides agree the republic's powerful defence force (SADF) holds the key to whether a right-wing revolt against majority rule can succeed.

In a country where warnings of Bosnia-style civil war have become commonplace, the loyalty of the post-apartheid armed forces is under the microscope.

The acid test could come soon. Black and white members of the right-wing Freedom Alliance say they would rather fight than be ruled by the African National Congress (ANC) — almost certain to win elections next month.

Despite the dismantling of apartheid and the looming all-race poll, some ANC members still distrust SADF officers.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the boers (Afrikaners) are planning a coup like the generals in Chile," said one ANC official detailed to work with an SADF officer.

"All the senior MK cadres are known to the boers now. They could take them all out and the ANC would be helpless," said the official, who did not want to be identified.

MK (Umkhonto We Sizwe — the spear of the nation) is the armed wing of the ANC which is to be incorporated into the defence forces. Local newspapers said last month the SADF had warned president F.W. de Klerk of the possibility of a coup by right-wing officers.

An SADF report to Mr. de Klerk had estimated that up to 60 per cent of troops might side with the right-wing rather than the government, the papers said.

The defence force comprises 250,000 mainly white part-time soldiers, and 70,000 mainly black troops led by white officers.

Bill Nass, a former SADF brigadier who is now a researcher with the Institute for Defence Policy think tank, wrote that the right-wing could make areas of the country ungovernable.

"Even if one per cent of the part-time SADF members mutiny, it would form the basis of a strong group of guerrillas," he said, adding:

"Without the most strenuous efforts and imaginative leadership, South Africa faces, at best, an IRA-style terror campaign. At worst, we face massive industrial sabotage and widespread blood-letting."

He said the permanent force would probably be loyal to whatever government was elected in April. But he cautioned that a clash between black soldiers and white para-military forces could have far-reaching consequences.

A senior ANC official said one of the first tasks of an ANC-controlled defence force would be to act against the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), a heavily-armed neo-Nazi private army headed by Eugene Terre Blanche.

Terre Blanche, who has said his followers would burn the country down if they did not get self-rule in an independent state, regularly parades his 5,000-strong paramilitary force through the streets of conservative white towns.

Wim Booysse, policy analyst at the Northern Transvaal Chamber of Industries, said sending the SADF against the AWB carried the seeds of a dangerous confrontation.

He said the current wave of bombings aimed at railway lines, power pylons and ANC offices was only the tip of the iceberg of potential night-time resistance.

"These are peripheral. I don't think they are part of an organised campaign. I hope we never get to that, to the real thing," he said.

Political analyst Mike Hough of the University of Pretoria said nobody really knew the potential for mutiny in the SADF.

"We will need a showdown before the divisions become apparent," he said, adding that farm-based commando units were the most likely to sympathise with the right-wing.

"The right-wing is saying that the security forces might not fight on their side in a conflict but will certainly not fight against them," Mr. Hough said.

Mr. de Klerk and his Defence Minister Kobie Coetsee held a special meeting with reporters in February to say the SADF would obey the elected government of the day.

But they acknowledged that a "large" number of weapons had been withdrawn from white part-time soldiers whose loyalty was suspect.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE ISSUED BY THE "SPECIAL TENDER COMMITTEE" FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

TENDER NUMBER 5/94

DIGITAL TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT

The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces Tender No. 5/94 "Digital Transmission Equipment".

This project is one of the main parts of the National Telecommunications Programme which aims to expand the Jordanian Telephone Network.

SCOPE OF WORK

The above mentioned tender (on turn-key basis) consists of design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the following:

- A) (70) Optical-fiber links with a total length of 750 km.
- B) Optical Terminals using PDH & SDH technology
- C) (13) Microwave links including terminal & multiplex equipment
- D) (13) Microwave towers
- E) Supervisory equipment using TMN system.

In addition to that, spare parts, civil works needed for cables laying and towers' erection and training of TCC staff in operation and maintenance are required.

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their tenders in accordance with terms, conditions and technical specifications contained in the tender documents.

Tenders are requested to submit in addition to price offer a financing proposal to finance the foreign currency portion of the contract to be awarded.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Tenders are requested to submit their tenders in three separate sealed envelopes as follows:

- FIRST: Containing the technical offer
- SECOND: Containing the "Price Only" on cash basis offer
- THIRD: Containing price plus financing offer i.e.:
 - a) Price based on financing.
 - b) The financing offer

Technical offers will be opened and evaluated first. Price and financing offers for technically acceptable offers will then be opened.

Tender documents may be obtained from Tender Section/TCC headquarters, Tower Building as from Tuesday, March 8, against a non-refundable fee of (1500) one-thousand and five hundred Jordanian dinars.

Tenders, accompanied by a tender guarantee, are to be submitted in English not later than 12 a.m. local time on Saturday 18, June, 1994.

The technical offers will be opened in the presence of tenderers' representatives, who wish to attend, on the same date.

Note: The last date for purchasing the tender documents is April, 20, 1994.

Chairman of Special Tenders Committee'
Ahmad Al-Nawawi



TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE ISSUED BY THE "SPECIAL TENDER COMMITTEE" FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

TENDER NUMBER 4/94

DIGITAL SWITCHING EQUIPMENT

The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces Tender No. 4/94 "Digital Switching Equipment".

This project is one of the main parts of the National Telecommunications Programme which aims to expand the Jordanian Telephone Network.

SCOPE OF WORK

The above mentioned tender (on turn-key basis) consists of design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the following:

- A) (21) Main exchanges
- B) (80) Remote Subscriber Units (RSUs)
- C) One training model
- D) One repair centre
- E) One network management centre
- F) Related power, air-conditioning & fire protection.

In addition to that, spare parts and training of TCC staff on operation and maintenance are required.

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their tenders in accordance with terms, conditions and technical specifications contained in the tender documents.

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 - a) Price based on financing.
 - b) The financing offer

Technical offers will be opened and evaluated first. Price and financing offers for technically acceptable offers will then be opened.

Tender documents may be obtained from Tender Section/TCC headquarters, Tower Building as from Tuesday, March 8, against a non-refundable fee of (2000) two-thousand Jordanian dinars.

Tenders, accompanied by a tender guarantee, are to be submitted in English not later than 12 a.m. local time on Wednesday 15, June, 1994.

The technical offers will be opened in the presence of tenderers' representatives, who wish to attend, on the same date.

Note: The last date for purchasing the tender documents is April, 20, 1994.

Chairman of Special Tenders Committee'
Ahmad Al-Nawawi

Afrikaners

(Continued from page 1)

dication of a pending division of the group, which claims to represent most of the nation's three million Afrikaners — the Dutch-descended settlers of South Africa.

Mr. Hartzenberg and Mr. Viljoen called for a referendum among South Africa's five million whites to determine how many support creating a white homeland. Two years ago, whites voted 2-1 in favour of President F.W. de Klerk's reforms to end apartheid.

TCC launches new expansion phase

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has launched another phase of its expansion programme. The expansion programme, which started in 1993, aims at providing the country with a modern telecommunications infrastructure. The programme includes the construction of a new telecommunications network, the expansion of the existing network, and the provision of telecommunications services to the public.

optical terminals, microwave links and towers and supervisory equipment as well as training for TCC staff in operation and maintenance and spare parts.

Jordan froze all telecommunications expansion projects in 1989 in the face of a severe economic crisis. As a result, the TCC has failed to meet increasing demand for telephone lines as well as other communication facilities.

The projects, however, were revived in 1993, after the Kingdom managed to address its pressing foreign debt problems and stabilised the dinar, but, experts note, the TCC has to redouble its efforts to make up for the four years that were lost. The programme launched in 1993 is expected to cost nearly JD 200 million.

"You simply cannot order equipment and get it in a month's time," said a senior TCC official. "With the advances in technology, it takes as much as four years to order, build, install and commission new equipment of a level that would meet demands."

TCC officials say that the

corporation would be able to meet nearly 80 per cent of all the country's needs by 1996, when the programme is launched in 1993 is expected to be completed.

In the meantime, most of the outstanding requests for new telephone lines in Amman's key business and residential areas would be met before the end of 1994, they say.

"But then, the demand for telephones is ever growing," commented the TCC official. "It is a typical feature of the Third World that catching up with outstanding requests is never possible since seeking telephone lines is a never-ending process."

By the time the ongoing programme is completed one in every 10 Jordanians would have a telephone line as opposed to one in every 15 that the country has today, according to TCC officials.

Partly to meet the immediate demands, the TCC has floated invitations to setting up cellular phones as part of a government concession after the related law — that gave the TCC a monopoly in telecom-

munications in Jordan — was amended.

TCC officials concede that cellular phones, which, by nature, are expensive, are not the precise answer to the pressing demands of Jordanians, but say that they could go some way in satisfying local needs.

Tenders for the cellular phone project close next month. If a quick decision is taken and the contract awarded, cellular phones could be operational by 1995.

TCC officials emphasise that cellular phones represent only a complementary service that has no reflection on the national expansion plan.

They say that the cellular phone contract would be similar to the radio paging system contract given to the private sector. Under this arrangement, the contractor has set up and operates the project at its own cost after paying predetermined fees to the TCC.

A TCC scheme floated in 1991 to attract private sector investment in telecommunications through a "buy, operate and transfer" scheme did not work out.

Innovative pay deal averts damaging German strike

HANOVER, Germany (R) —

Employers and union leaders averted a potentially crippling strike in Germany's crucial engineering industry on Saturday after hammering out an innovative pay deal in 14 hours of talks.

The deal — combining a two per cent pay rise for seven months from June with schemes to secure jobs, reduce working hours and guarantee work for qualified trainees — was given an immediate seal of approval by Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

"The German government welcomes that agreement between the contract parties in the engineering and metal industry," Mr. Kohl's spokesman Dieter Vogel said in a brief first reaction.

"The agreement headed off an industrial conflict," he added. Mr. Kohl had warned repeatedly this week that a strike could dash hopes of recovery from Germany's worst post-war recession.

Strikes had been set to hit firms in the north German state of Lower Saxony from Monday after 41,000 members there voted by an overwhelming 92.2 per cent in favour of walkouts.

The deal set on Saturday is expected to be accepted by the union's regional units across west Germany this week. It is also likely to set the tone for pay deals in other sectors.

Presenting the pay package to reporters after the all-night talks, Klaus Zwickel, head of the 3.2 million-strong I.G. Metall union, said the agreement would not have been possible without the strike vote and widespread token stoppages last month.

"The employers would never have moved without the commitment of around 1.5 million token strikers, without the fantastic strike ballot vote in Lower Saxony and without the fighting spirit of our mem-

bers," he said.

The employers had called for a wage freeze and a cut in holiday pay in order to slash costs by 10 per cent and restore firms' competitiveness.

I.G. Metall had originally sought a pay rise of up to six per cent, but — mindful of Germany's record four million unemployed — the union made clear from the outset it would accept a lower pay deal if job guarantees were offered.

"Our goal was a trade-off of job security against more money," Mr. Zwickel told a news conference. "As we achieved job security it was logical that we could not get as much money."

Employer leader Hans-Joachim Gottschol, whose organisation Gesamtmetall had proposed the last-ditch talks in the northern city of Hanover, said firms had achieved their objective of warding off a new rise in costs.

"Companies will bear no additional costs from this deal in 1994," he told the news conference.

Wages would remain steady until June 1 before being raised by two per cent, for a 1.16 per cent rise on average in 1994 as a whole. The pay rise was offset by other cost savings.

"No increase in costs means costs have actually been cut if productivity rises are factored in," Mr. Gottschol added.

But the most innovative element of Saturday's deal came in allowing firms and workers flexibility on working hours.

Economists have long called for greater flexibility in Germany's labour market, to allow companies to adapt fast to changing trading conditions.

Under one new option agreed by I.G. Metall, employees at a firm may work as little as 30 hours a week, compared with the usual 36, and be given pay compensation for this, but not be offered job security, union vice-president Walter Riester said.

UAE reports growth in non-oil industries

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A

surge in investment since the Gulf war has boosted the non-oil industrial sector in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as it presses ahead with a drive to diversify its economy and cushion the impact of low oil prices, official reports have showed.

Between 1991 and 1993, industrial units increased to 1,528 from 1,225, and investments rose to 4.7 billion dirhams (\$1.28 billion) from 4.2 billion dirhams (\$1.14 billion), the reports said.

"Initial estimates showed that the non-oil industrial sector grew by 9.5 per cent in 1993, nearly double its growth in 1992," the state-run Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) said in its weekly bulletin.

"The high growth was due to an increase in demand and a 23 per cent rise in industrial investments after the Gulf war."

A planning ministry report said the value added in the non-oil industrial sector surged to 10.5 billion dirhams (\$2.86 billion) in 1993, from 9.4 billion dirhams (\$2.56 billion) in 1991.

The 1991 figure accounted for around 17 per cent of the total value added in the non-oil industrial sector in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Officials said the growth made the UAE's industrial sector the second biggest in the GCC after that of Saudi Arabia, where more than 4,000 factories have been set up at a cost of nearly \$30 billion.

The UAE and other Gulf states have launched industrialisation campaigns to reduce their reliance on unstable oil earnings.

Investment in other sectors

such as farming and tourism remained much lower.

Industries were still limited to cement, chemicals, clothes and textiles, foodstuffs, paper and other light products.

The GCC states have been pressing the European Union, Japan and other major industrial powers to supply them with technology to expand their industrial sectors.

Most industrial investment in the UAE after the Gulf war came from the private sector, while government activity concentrated on oil, gas, petrochemicals and infrastructure projects.

The government has announced attractive incentives for industrial investment, including soft loans and finance for project feasibility studies.

The EIB said new projects and markets needed to be found in order to sustain growth in the UAE's industrial sector.

"Last year, the number of projects approved by the bank stood at 18, compared with 21 in 1992. This is because the market has become saturated with such projects, and investors need new ideas, especially high technology projects, and bigger markets," it said.

A planning ministry report showed trade still dominated the UAE's non-oil economy. Its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) stood at 13.3 billion dirhams (\$3.62 billion) in 1993, while the industrial sector stood at 10.8 billion dirhams (\$2.9 billion).

Despite diversification, oil remains the dominant sector, with a contribution to the GDP of 51.3 billion dirhams (\$13.9 billion) in 1993, nearly 40 per cent of the total.

Clinton Doubles aid to Ukraine

WASHINGTON (R) — President Clinton said Friday he was doubling to \$700 million the amount of assistance offered to Ukraine and said the former Soviet republic was moving toward a bigger role in Europe.

Mr. Clinton announced the increase in response to Ukraine's agreement to rid itself of nuclear weapons after months of resistance by Ukrainian parliament, which had left Kiev in diplomatic isolation.

He also praised what he said was progress in introducing market reforms after signing several agreements with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and meeting a delegation which included Olympic champion figure skater Oskana Baul.

"Over the last half year, I have come to have higher hopes for the prospect of a full trainee partnership in a democratic Europe," Mr. Clinton said. "I also know what a very difficult economic time Ukraine is going through and I want to reiterate the United States' support for that."

Mr. Kravchuk described economic conditions two years after Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union as "very difficult" and praised US aid in helping the country's economy.

"We are convinced that we can help Ukraine in its economic development and that we can help it in its political development," he said.

Mr. Clinton said the aid package was part of a broader US strategy to help Ukraine's economy and to help it in its political development.

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Japanese shun foreign rice, cite chemicals, mice and mites

TOKYO (R) — Japanese consumers

are turning their noses up at purchasing foreign rice, citing safety concerns following reports that imports were contaminated with chemicals or creatures such as mice and mites.

Almost one out of two consumers polled in Tokyo and Osaka this week said they would not purchase foreign rice for safety reasons, the daily Mainichi Shimbun reported Saturday.

Only 11 (5.5 per cent) of the 200 respondents to the poll said they had actually tried foreign rice. They were divided in their evaluation — half said they noticed no taste difference from home-grown rice while

the other half said it tasted bad.

Of 189 people who had yet to buy foreign rice, a total of 96, or 48 per cent, said they had no intention of doing so for fear the rice was contaminated with agricultural chemicals or creatures, the poll said.

A controversy over the safety of foreign rice erupted this week when a communist legislator told parliament that Japanese millers recently found dead mice and cockroaches in a pioneering shipment of imported Thai rice.

"These things don't become public because people tend to panic, but it's happening all over Japan," said Yuko Takasaki, a member of the upper house.

Apart from mice and cock-

roaches, she said bird bones, rubber band, strings, cigarette butts, pebbles and chalk had been found in Thai rice distributed to grain milling factories.

Both the agriculture ministry and the food agency handling imports denied anyone had found mice and cockroaches but said some foreign objects such as pebbles turned up in the Thai rice.

Tokyo fought long and tenaciously to protect its politically powerful farmers by barring all rice imports, only to be forced late last year to give ground. A devastating 1993 domestic harvest obliged the government to make emergency rice purchases from abroad.

Taiwan raises ceiling for foreign funds in bourse

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan raised

the ceiling for foreign investment in its stock market to \$10 billion on Saturday in a reform expected to attract a new flow of funds into one of Asia's largest bourses.

The ceiling for total investment by foreign institutions, which were allowed to begin investing directly when Taiwan opened its market in early 1991, was lifted to \$7.5 billion from \$5 billion.

The central bank also set a ceiling of \$2.5 billion on overseas fundraising by Taiwanese investment trust firms. Previously, the firms had not faced a formal ceiling.

Deputy central bank governor Yu Chen said the reform

would allow foreign funds to account for about six per cent of stock market capitalisation, roughly in line with curbs imposed by South Korea on its market and near the proportion of the Japanese stock market held by foreigners.

The central bank, concerned that fund inflows could destabilise financial markets and hurt exporters by pushing up the value of the Taiwan dollar, had resisted heavy political pressure to raise the investment ceiling for several months.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, which wants to make Taiwan a regional financial centre as the island prepares to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and

Trade (GATT), had pressed for a ceiling as high as \$20 billion.

"We welcome foreign funds for long-term investment, but not those for short-term profit-taking," Mr. Yu told a news conference.

He said fund inflows could push annual M2 money supply growth up to 16.7 per cent and the central bank was prepared to prevent this by absorbing liquidity in the money market to keep growth in a range of 10 to 15 per cent.

Foreign institutions have so far received approval to bring \$4.71 billion into Taiwan, and have actually remitted \$3.36 billion. Domestic investment trust firms have been approved

to remit \$1.53 billion and have brought in \$1.1 billion.

Foreign fund managers and securities analysts said the reform was likely to trigger a new wave of foreign interest in Taiwan's market, which soared 80 per cent last year although it has fallen back since then amid heavy profit-taking.

"A lot of foreigners are still waiting to enter Taiwan and this is the signal for them to come," said Ben Lee at Wardley James Capital.

Several analysts said selling pressure remained likely to cut short any near-term rally sparked by the central bank's announcement. The market's weighted index closed at

5,671.46 on Saturday, and

brokers expect selling between 5,800 and 6,000.

But with economic growth officially forecast at 6.2 per cent this year and corporate earnings per share expected to rise by around 20 per cent, some analysts say the index could top 7,000 points by year's end.

The central bank's announcement sent the Taiwan dollar surging more than 10 cents to close at an eight-month high of 26.3200 to the U.S. dollar from 26.4280 on Friday.

Foreign exchange dealers said the Taiwan dollar could remain under upward pressure unless the central bank intervened in the market.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 6, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Use your intuitive faculties to get a firmer grasp on the home scene where differences of opinion are growing at a rapid rate. Show that you are willing to listen to other points of view and go with the flow.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Follow only accepted rules for handling any problems you may have, whether private or otherwise, and avoid trouble that may develop.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good day to be with influential persons who can help you in your line of endeavour. Take no chances with your health especially during this time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A new project you have in mind needs more research before you put it in operation. Allow time to engage in your favourite hobby for peace of mind.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may be thinking you are not progressing as you should, but keep plugging and you will gain your goal in a very big way.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Listen to advice of a family tie who has your best interest at heart. Make long-range plans for the days ahead and any projects you are involved in will be successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A good day to visit friends and relatives for mutual enjoyment. Be more precise in handling your personal affairs and you will get all you deserve.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Forget a worrisome affair and delve into something more practical and profitable. Make plans to improve your social life by going out with loved one.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day to study facts and figures so you can advance in career affairs. Strive for increased harmony at home through the kindness of others.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Contact friends in the afternoon and discuss an important plan you have in mind. Allow time for recreational activities on this day.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A perfect day for getting out to new activities and perking up your enthusiasm. Relax at home tonight for you have a long week ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listening to the suggestions of an expert can be most helpful to you now. Make this a most worthwhile day for all those who reside with you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Follow your hunches early in the day because they are likely to be off target later. Take no risks with your reputation or you will be behind the eight ball.

YODER: (March 21 to April 19) Follow only accepted rules for handling any problems you may have, whether private or otherwise, and avoid trouble that may develop.

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THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth V. Holden

ACROSS

- Church section
- Chords
- Meat or Olan
- Northern European
- Eagle's nest
- Construction team
- Time
- Spide easily
- Stash
- Something pre-ordained
- Abroad
- Lug
- Some pointers
- Bar injuries
- Steps over a fence
- Shower
- Dumplings
- Freeman's tool
- Threat for
- Black fish
- Population statistics
- Blush purple
- Jaw, Canada
- Dehydrated
- Spire
- In strange territory
- Stands
- Colic sub-stone
- Mauna
- Ridge name
- Cartel ally
- After head and heart
- Double curve
- Prek or trick end
- More exclamation
- Go
- Cash
- Vestments
- Wishes
- Gust
- Heavy snow
- Cartel ally
- Coolest
- Zadara
- Translating
- Timid one
- Approximately
- On the — under consideration
- Waste
- allowance
- Mound
- Fourteen drink
- Cartel banquet speaker
- Martin or Allen
- Showerhead
- Hack
- Day
- Shedboard
- Wipe out
- Musical accompaniment
- Be enthusiastic
- Rude structure
- Medieval
- Whirl
- Whisk
- Face the — (except the consequences)
- Signed dry
- Dominate
- Upright
- Supple
- Full place
- Signed dry
- Upright
- Racing sled
- Harvester
- Harvest
- Signed dry
- Argument

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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- Argument

THE BUTTER HALF

By Harris



"To improve your pucker power, pick up a bowling ball with your lips 100 times a day..."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arno and Mike Argon

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's

Answers

Answers tomorrow

Peanuts

Comic strip by Charles M. Schulz

1. I've developed a new improved philosophy.

2. Who cares? How should I know? Do you think I'm out of my mind?

3. A good philosophy helps you endure all of the troubles we have in life.

4. Who cares? How should I know? Do you think I'm out of my mind?

Andy Capp

Comic strip by Jeffery Lindsay

1. Loans

2. Look forget security — Count you just take the word of a gentleman?

3. Could be. Fetch him tomorrow and we'll have a chat.

Mutt'n'Jeff

Comic strip by Jeffery Lindsay

1. What?

2. I said take the dog out for some air!

3. Air?

Black, white conservatives dash to join South African election

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and white separatist Constand Viljoen signed up at the last moment to contest South Africa's multi-racial elections, but said they were only keeping their options open.

In the first sign of a crack in a right-wing boycott of the April 26-28 democracy vote, they each paid deposits of 70,000 rand (\$20,000) late Friday to reserve a place on the ballot paper.

An electoral official said they had until 4:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) Wednesday to confirm their participation by nominating candidates for the country's first all-race parliament.

Mr. Viljoen, leader of the Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF), said the Volksraad, an rebel Afrikaner parliament, would decide at a meeting in Pretoria Saturday whether his Freedom Front Party would actually stand in the elections.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Sue Voss, told reporters at the Johannesburg office of the Independent Electoral Commission that its participation would depend mainly on talks with the ANC Tuesday.

Inkatha's Central Committee decided at a six-hour meeting in the Zulu capital of Umtata to back Mr. Buthelezi's proposal for its provisional registration pending further negotiations or international media-

tion on its constitutional demands.

Inkatha said mediation should cover "the constitution and rationalising the electoral process and timetables to translate constitutional agreements into a fair and free election in which all parties can compete on an equal footing."

Chairman Frank Mdlalose, arriving at the electoral commission's offices three hours before the midnight deadline for registration, told reporters: "We will actively start campaigning as of this minute."

But Ms. Voss said a final decision whether to contest the elections would depend on meetings with the right-wing Freedom Alliance Monday and the African National Congress Tuesday.

The ANC had cleared the way for Inkatha to register by formally accepting Mr. Buthelezi's demand for international mediation on its constitutional demands.

Mr. Buthelezi and other Freedom Alliance leaders want guarantees of strong regional powers in a post-apartheid South Africa. Mr. Buthelezi seeks constitutional recognition of the Zulu king, while Mr. Viljoen demands a right to white self-determination.

Five small groups took advantage of an extended deadline for registration, making a total of 29 planning to contest the polls. They included a Muslim party, an

African Democratic Party, a Green Party and a sports party with the acronym Soccer.

President F.W. de Klerk welcomed the Inkatha decision to register provisionally, but told party supporters at a rally in Durban: "I would have preferred them to register full stop."

ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus welcomed the decision and said the ANC was confident that a settlement including Mr. Buthelezi's Zulu-based party could be negotiated with international help.

But she said that the election ending almost 350 years of white minority rule in South Africa would go ahead as scheduled on April 26-28. "The election date won't be changed," she said.

Mr. Buthelezi said in Cape Town Thursday it would be unfair to expect Inkatha to catch up now without postponing the vote because other parties had a campaign lead of over two months.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela and the South Africa government Saturday ruled out a postponement of the first all-race elections next month, setting the scene for a new showdown with the right-wing.

The looming row over the date for South Africa's historic elections muted any optimism over the last-minute registration for the poll.

Mr. Mandela said Saturday of the election date: "That is a date which is fixed and cannot

be altered."

Richard Carter, spokesman for President F.W. de Klerk, told Reuters: "We are completely committed to April 26 to 28."

Mr. Mandela, in separate comments on Friday night, also repeated his rejection of the white right-wing demand for a Volkstaat.

Mr. Viljoen is expected to receive a stormy reception Saturday at a meeting of the AVF leadership in Pretoria. Radical AVF members have booed him down in the past when he suggested taking part in the election and newspapers have speculated that the white right could soon split.

Mr. Viljoen registered for the poll Friday night under the new name of the Freedom Front, saying he had not had time to consult the AVF on the move.

Fellow Alliance member President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana told reporters Saturday he might register for the poll Monday. The formal deadline was Friday midnight but ANC leaders have said this could be extended.

Asked about moving the election date, Gen. Mangope said: "The only logical thing would be to extend it. The South African government could convene parliament to change the date."

The ANC has agreed to an Alliance demand for international mediation of outstanding issues.

Serbs blockade U.N. convoys in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb forces Saturday blockaded U.N. convoys around Bosnia, including an aid column trying to reach the Muslim town of Maglaj which the United Nations wants to make a safe haven.

Apart from the Maglaj convoy, another aid mission heading for Sarajevo was stopped at Hadzici nearby by an organised protest of Serb women and children.

Five U.N. convoys belonging to Canada, France and the Netherlands were blocked at Zvornik by Serbs who objected to their peacekeepers or complained that the trucks would damage roads.

In Maglaj three civilians were killed by Serb artillery attacks during the night while collecting food dropped from the air, Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said.

Maglaj, which has received no outside aid by road since October, has become Bosnia's deadliest fire zone with scores of casualties since ceasefire took hold in Sarajevo and central Bosnia this month.

Serb forces stalled the convoy in defiance of a threat by U.N. Commander General Sir Michael Rose to use force if necessary to get the trucks to Maglaj.

Kris Janowski, an official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in Sarajevo: "The bottom line is that they are not letting this convoy in and they are making all kinds of excuses."

All three sides have harassed convoys during the 23-month war since Bosnian Serbs turned on Muslims and Croats after they voted for independence from former Yugoslavia.

But aid officials have blamed Serbs for most of the disruption in supplies of aid and food to almost three million victims of the fighting.

The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously Friday night to consider adding Maglaj, Vitez and Mostar to its list of safe havens under the protection of NATO warplanes.

It also demanded that Serbs



Sarajevans repair their grenade-shattered roof in a Muslim neighbourhood of the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo (AFP photo)

lift their siege of Sarajevo, which is still surrounded although a threat of NATO air strikes this month forced the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) to neutralise the artillery it used to kill 10,000 people in the Bosnian capital.

The council asked Secretary General Boutros Ghali to appoint a civilian official to coordinate the restoration of city services including electricity and water.

The BSA, obliged to slacken its armed stranglehold on much of Bosnia, has continued to test the resolve of U.N. peacekeepers for any sign of weakness.

A U.N. spokesman said five Howitzers the BSA sneaked back into a 20 kilometre artillery exclusion zone around Sarajevo were removed early Saturday at U.N. insistence. A sixth was expected to be withdrawn during the day.

Peacekeepers' spokesman Major Rob Annink, asked if the Serbs were trying the U.N. patience, told reporters: "I agree. It looks like that."

NATO jets drew blood Monday when they shot down four Serb warplanes bombing

Muslim targets in defiance of the U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia.

Although the Sarajevo ceasefire is intact, the U.N. has observed an increase in the calibre of random firing in and around Sarajevo with use of mortars and rocket-propelled grenades.

"It is obvious that there are still some heavy weapons not under control," Maj. Annink said. "That is one of the reasons we need more troops in the area to deploy between the warring factions... If we are not in control in the next few days, the ceasefire might collapse."

Bosnian Muslim and Croat negotiators met at the United States embassy in Vienna Friday for a "get-acquainted" session ahead of up to 10 days of talks on forming a federation.

They are due to settle the details of a U.S.-brokered accord to establish a Croat-Muslim federation — with the hope of ending nearly two years of fighting — under the auspices of U.S. President Bill Clinton's special envoy, Charles Redman.

Tulip bulbs return to a Dutch menu

SCHAGEN, Netherlands (AP) — A restaurant here is recalling the bitter days of the Nazi occupation by reviving tulip bulb soup. Variations of the soup sustained many starving Dutch citizens during the "hunger winter" of 1944 when German occupiers stripped the nation of foodstuffs to send to Germany. The bulbs of the Netherlands' national flower have a high starch content, making them an ideal potato substitute. Survivors of the Nazi occupation remember them for their bitter taste. "I haven't tasted them but my parents ate them during the war and say they taste terrible, very bitter," said Liesbeth Van Der Horst, a spokeswoman for the Dutch Resistance Museum, which features an exhibit on the tulip's uses as food during occupation. Chef Rob Pauw at the Igees Restaurant in this northwestern city will serve up his tulip bulb soup later this month for the Dutch Year of the Tulip marking the 400th year since the bulbs were imported from Turkey. Mr. Pauw is keeping mum on his recipe, but said Friday that staff at the restaurant say his creation is delicious. "Really it is just a case of the recipes being used to disguise the taste of the bulbs," said Ms. Van Der Horst.

New Biosphere 2 crew to kick off habitation

ORACLE, Ariz. (AP) — Biosphere 2 is embarking on what its operators hope will be the start of 98 years of continuous habitation in the domed ecological laboratory — and the recovery of its image as serious science. Nearly six months after the first eight-person crew ended a two-year stay inside the lab, the project has been redesigned. Beginning Sunday, a crew of five men and two women will rotate in and out of the three-acre glass-and-steel bubble and its 10 apartments. The private, for-profit project is supposed to run like a remote research station. Space biospheres ventures, based 58 kilometres (35 miles) northeast of Tucson, operates the (150 million experiment paid for largely by Texas billionaire Edward Bass. It was designed to last 100 years as a self-sustaining laboratory replicating earth's environment with a rain forest, ocean, savannah, desert, scrubland, marsh and farm.

Cat blacks out Ho Chi Minh City TV

HANOI (R) — A cat blacked out Ho Chi Minh City's television programmes for 10 minutes when it jumped onto a mains power switch and short-circuited the station's electricity supply, the trade union newspaper Lao Dong reported Saturday. The cat's fate in Thursday night's incident was not known.

Feline heroine of Los Angeles quake dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Tiffany, the cat found alive trapped in a closet 41 days after the Los Angeles earthquake, died Friday from the effects of malnutrition. "It's very tragic," said Maureen Beaman at the veterinary clinic where Tiffany, a mixed Persian breed, was being treated. "We were all very close to her. She was actually improving, but then suddenly she died, poor baby," Ms. Beaman said. Tiffany was taken to the Santa Clarita Valley animal clinic Sunday by her owner, Laurie Booth, after being found Sunday in a neighbour's outside storage closet where she had hid, terrified, in the Jan. 17 earthquake. The cat was trapped when Ms. Booth's neighbours unwittingly locked her in the closet. Ms. Beaman said Ms. Booth was distraught over the loss of her beloved pet. "She is terribly, terribly upset. Extremely upset," Ms. Beaman said. The feline weighed about eight pounds (four kg) before the earthquake but emerged as a bundle of skin and bone, having survived without food or water and living purely on her own body fat and protein. "She died of malnutrition, purely and simply," Ms. Beaman said. "We were feeding her intravenously and giving her liquid cat food, but unfortunately it was too late," she added.

Angola reports army advances in north

LUANDA (R) — Angolan state radio Thursday reported advances by government forces around the northern town of Sauro in Lunda Sul province.

"In Lunda Sul... government forces have been liberating villages," the radio said. "Two villages under rebel control for more than a year were recently liberated."

Sauro is some 200

kilometres from diamond-producing areas in the Cuango Valley, which UNITA rebels have held since expelling the government from most of Lunda Norte province in late 1992.

UNITA has been selling diamonds from areas under its control in Lunda Norte to buy arms. An industry source in Luanda said he thought up to \$200 million worth of di-

amonds leaked out of UNITA areas in 1993.

State radio said international relief flights to the besieged northern city of Malange resumed Friday after being suspended following rebel shelling Wednesday and Thursday.

The government-held town has been under a UNITA siege since the start of last year. Aid sources confirmed the report.

Comedy actor John Candy dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — John Candy, the lovable, overweight comic actor who rose from television skits to starring roles in some of Hollywood's most successful comedies, has died of a heart attack on a Mexican movie set. He was 43.

The star of Uncle Buck, Planes, Trains and Automobiles and many other films was found dead Friday in his residence during filming of the Western comedy Wagons East, near Durango, Mexico, said Gary Goodman, the film's producer.

Hector Partida, spokesman for the Durango State Government, said Candy had a heart attack in his sleep and was dead when paramedics arrived.

The production of Wagons East was suspended. Candy played the drunken wagonmaster of an 1860s prairie schooner heading the wrong way.

Said co-star Richard Lewis: "Everyone should know that the night before he died, myself and (co-star) Robert Picardo were blessed to be in a scene with John Candy which showed all of us his genius."

It was unclear if the film could be completed, Goodman said.

Born and reared in Toronto, Candy co-starred in last year's Cool Runnings, a hit film about the Jamaican bobsled team.

He appeared in the 1991 drama Only The Lonely and the comedies Stripes, National Lampoon's Vacation, Splash and The Great Outdoors.

S. Korea, U.S. to hold nuclear talks

SEOUL (R) — A team of senior U.S. officials will visit South Korea to discuss ways to resolve the long-running dispute over North Korea's nuclear development programme, a Seoul Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday.

The spokesman said the team, led by assistant U.S. Secretary of State Robert Gallucci, will arrive in Seoul next Thursday for three days of talks with South Korean officials.

Mr. Gallucci will meet Kim Sam-Hoon, special senior advisor to Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo for nuclear affairs, the spokesman said. Mr. Gallucci was also expected to meet Han.

"The talks would be focused on measures to jointly cope with North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development programme," the spokesman said, without elaborating.

The domestic Yonhap News Agency said the two governments would review their positions on the North Korean nuclear issue and reconfirm a proposed inter-Korean exchange of special envoys Thursday, a precondition of a third round of talks between Washington and Pyongyang.

Mr. Gallucci and North Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju led their delegations in the two rounds of high-level talks last summer, which stalled with the United States insisting Pyongyang talk to Seoul and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to discuss nuclear inspections.

The two countries last month agreed to resume the talks on March 21.

A six-member team of IAEA inspectors arrived in Pyongyang Tuesday to examine North Korea's seven de-

clared nuclear sites including those at Yongbyon, north of the capital. They made the first IAEA inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities in more than a year Thursday.

South Korea, announcing a decision to suspend the "Team Spirit" military exercise with the United States next year, resumed border talks Thursday to discuss the exchange of envoys.

It said the decision was conditional on the envoy exchange, which the South hopes will help settle the nuclear dispute and pave the way for a meeting between the two Korean leaders.

But the talks are deadlocked over the North's repeated demands that Seoul stop nuclear war exercises, halt international cooperation in solving the nuclear issue and give up a plan to deploy Patriot missiles in the South.

White House, treasury hit with Whitewater subpoenas

WASHINGTON (R) — Six White House aides were subpoenaed to testify on Whitewater-related matters, and White House lawyer Bernard Nussbaum prepared to resign, as fallout from President Bill Clinton's controversial financial dealings in Arkansas widened Friday.

A treasury spokesman said three treasury officials were also ordered to testify before a grand jury in the case.

The subpoenas were ordered by Whitewater special counsel Robert Fiske, who demanded the production of White House documents for the grand jury.

Mr. Nussbaum, a longtime friend of Mr. Clinton's wife Hillary, met with the president late Friday but his expected departure from the White House staff was delayed until at least Saturday.

"The president and Bernie met tonight. They had a good meeting. We'll have nothing further to say today (about the resignation)," an official said. Despite the delay, Mr. Nussbaum's resignation was a certainty, an official said, adding, "It's a hard thing."

Mr. Nussbaum, a 55-year-

old former Wall Street lawyer, has come under fire for meeting federal officials overseeing a probe of Arkansas business deals involving the Clintons and their friends.

The discussions occurred just after the Resolution Trust Corp. — a federal agency set up to manage the cleanup of the savings and loan industry — asked the Justice Department to look into possible criminality in connection with the collapse of Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan.

The subpoenas were the first to hit White House officials in the special counsel's probe.

Those subpoenaed to testify were: — Bruce Lindsey, a senior adviser to the president and one of Mr. Clinton's closest friends.

— Deputy White House Chief of Staff Harold Ickes.

— White House Communications Director Mark Geran.

— Mr. Nussbaum.

— Margaret Williams, Mrs. Clinton's chief of staff, and

grand jury in Washington, D.C., White House officials said.

Sources said the Treasury Department officials issued subpoenas were Deputy Secretary Roger Altman, General Counsel Jean Hanson, and Chief of Staff Joshua Steiner.

Mr. Fiske also ordered the production of documents concerning conversation between the White House and the Department of the Treasury or the Resolution Trust Corp. — the thrift crisis clean-up agency — concerning the probe of Madison Guaranty.

Madison's owner was James McDougal, the Clintons' partner in the money-losing Whitewater real estate venture that has given the political explosive affair its name.

"The White House will comply fully and promptly with the subpoena," White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said in a statement.

Mr. Myers released a memorandum from Deputy White House Counsel Joel Klein ordering compliance with the demand for papers and spelling out how the requested documents were to be

preserved for the grand jury. • Ms. Myers also released related memos ordering that all White House computer records, trash baskets and burn bags be preserved for the special counsel's investigation.

The president, asked Friday at a news conference whether Mr. Nussbaum was leaving, pointedly declined to give him a vote of confidence — a sure sign that Mr. Nussbaum had become politically radioactive.

He ignored one Nussbaum query and said in reply to another, "I have nothing more to add to what I said yesterday."

Mr. Clinton made clear at the news conference that he felt procedures were now in place to prevent any perception that the White House was trying to influence the probe.

"We have constructed a clear and appropriate firewall between the White House and any federal regulatory agency that might have anything to do with this," he said Friday.

"I want a full investigation. I want this thing to be done fully, clearly, and be over with," Mr. Clinton said.

China frees top dissident

BEIJING (R) — China released its most famous dissident Saturday after his detention, for more than 24 hours, threatened to scuttle a key visit to Beijing by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Wei Jingsheng, the father of China's fledgling Democracy Movement, called an associate Saturday from a country north of Beijing to say he was now free and expected to be home late in the day.

President Bill Clinton had expressed strong disapproval over Mr. Wei's detention, part of a nationwide sweep against dissidents in advance of Mr. Christopher's visit which begins on March 11.

Mr. Clinton has warned he will not renew China's key most favoured nation (MFN) trading privilege in June unless Beijing improves its human rights record, threatening billions of dollars in trade.

Mr. Christopher's visit is seen as a last-ditch attempt to force the Chinese to make concessions that will let Mr. Clinton extend MFN.

"We strongly disapprove of what was done, and it obviously is not helpful to our relations," Mr. Clinton told reporters at the White House, adding that "we have sent a very stern statement" to Chinese authorities.

Mr. Christopher, who left Washington on his Asia trip Friday, said he still wanted to press ahead with his visit to China despite the arrests.

"These events only underscore the importance of being able to make human rights points at the highest level. That's been a major purpose of my trip and I intend to do that," he told reporters aboard his plane.

Half a dozen activists in Shanghai were rounded up to keep them from talking to Mr. Clinton's top human rights official, who was in China to prepare for the Christopher visit, dissidents said.

Mr. Wei, who became a potent symbol of China's lack of freedom of expression during 14 years in prison, had bluntly told Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs John Shattuck the United States had to be tough on China to get progress.

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Sukova eliminates Sabatini, Graf rolls on in Florida

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Helena Sukova extended Gabriela Sabatini's victory drought to 30 tournaments in a row Friday while Steffi Graf rolled to another commanding triumph at the \$400,000 Virginia Slims of Florida.

The fifth-seeded Sukova scored a 6-4, 6-4 quarter-final victory over Sabatini, seeded third, while the top-seeded Graf, a four-time champion here, reached the semifinals with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over seventh-seeded Sabine Hark of Germany.

The last of Sabatini's 25 career titles was the Italian Open in May 1992 — 30 tournaments and 21 months ago.

"I do need a turning point to get back that confidence," said the fifth-ranked Argentine. "It's a little disappointing every time. It doesn't make me feel too good."

Sabatini's semifinals pit Graf against Sukova and second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, who beat 16th seed Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-2, against 14th-seeded American Chanda Rubin, a 6-4, 6-0 winner over ninth-seeded Ukrainian Natalia Medvedeva.

Sabatini, a three-time former Slims of Florida champion, came into the match with an impressive 11-4 winning record over the 18th-ranked Sukova. Prior to Friday's loss, Sabatini had dropped only two sets to the Czech in their last 10 meetings.

"I lost that many?" exclaimed an astonished Sukova, a finalist at the 1993 U.S. Open. "You shouldn't have told me. I guess it's good I beat her this time."

It was a different Sukova that Sabatini faced here.

Having lost in the opening round of her last three tournaments, Sukova imported coach Jaromir Jirik to repair her game. Jirik, who is also a physician, had the right remedy.

"My confidence is back because of him," said Sukova. "He knows my personality and which strings to pull. After my last tournament I was very much down. He was able to help me over that."

Sukova played an intelligent match — capitalising on her strong serve-and-volley style, but also dominating play from the backcourt.

"I was surprised at the way she played," Sabatini said. "She maintained her level very well. She never slowed down. I was waiting for her to change, but she didn't."

Graf, the world number one who has not lost a set in the 20 matches she has played this year, posted 26 winners to Hark's four.

Graf broke the 22nd-ranked Hark's serve in the third and fifth games of the first set. Hark held serve only once in the second set — in the third game.

"I guess I played all right," said Graf. "Sometimes, I lost my concentration on a couple of points."

Sampras reaches semis of the Champions Cup

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Top seed Pete Sampras, playing at the top of his game, routed eighth-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria 6-3 6-2 in 74 minutes to reach the semifinals of the \$1.72 million Champions Cup late Friday.

Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden ended unseeded Darren Cahill's upset run here beating the Australian 6-4 6-3 in 62 minutes in his quarter-final match at the 56-player, hard court tournament.

Tenth-seeded Petr Korda of the Czech Republic outlasted 16th-seeded Carlos Costa of Spain 6-3 6-6 6-3 in a two-hour, seven-minute baseline duel.

Unseeded American Aaron Krickstein ousted 12th-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia 6-3 6-4 in the fourth quarter-final.

In the semifinals, Sampras faces Edberg, and Korda plays Krickstein.

The top-ranked Sampras pounded in 11 aces and kept the 11th-ranked Muster on the defensive throughout the match with his aggressive net play.

Sampras broke Muster once in the fourth game of the first set, the longest game of the

match, by outtrailing the tenacious Muster and breezed through his own service games.

Despite Muster's attempts to engage Sampras in long rallies and to hit looping shots to the American's backhand, Sampras controlled the second set as well, breaking the Austrian baseline three times while dropping his own serve once, when Muster scored three times on passing shots.

Sampras — who has won the last three grand slam events, the 1993 French Open, the 1993 Wimbledon and the 1994 Australian Open — called his effort against Muster his best of the tournament.

"I thought I played a solid match. I came out and I worked the points. I didn't make any errors. I was going for my returns and serving well, and I'm very pleased going into the semis against Stefan," Sampras said.

Muster, who admits he is more comfortable on slower surfaces, said he was simply overwhelmed by Sampras.

Cahill this week had beaten 11th-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland and fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia before falling to Edberg.

Boston Celtics snap record loss streak with win over L.A. Lakers

BOSTON (R) — The Boston Celtics snapped their franchise-record 13-game losing streak with a 109-99 victory over Los Angeles Lakers late Friday as Dino Radja posted career-highs with 36 points and 15 rebounds.

The Celtics had not won a game since Jan. 30, and were winless in the entire month of February.

The Lakers and Celtics — once the marquee matchup of the NBA but now two teams needing a big turnaround just to make the playoffs — were meeting for the second time in six days, L.A. having nipped Boston 100-97 Sunday.

Dee Brown added 22 points for Boston and Acie Earl had 10 points with a career-high nine rebounds.

In Chicago, Clyde Drexler scored 28 points and pulled down nine boards to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 115-96 win over the slumping three-time defending champion Bulls.

The loss was Chicago's fourth straight at home, the first time the Bulls have done that since April 8, 1984.

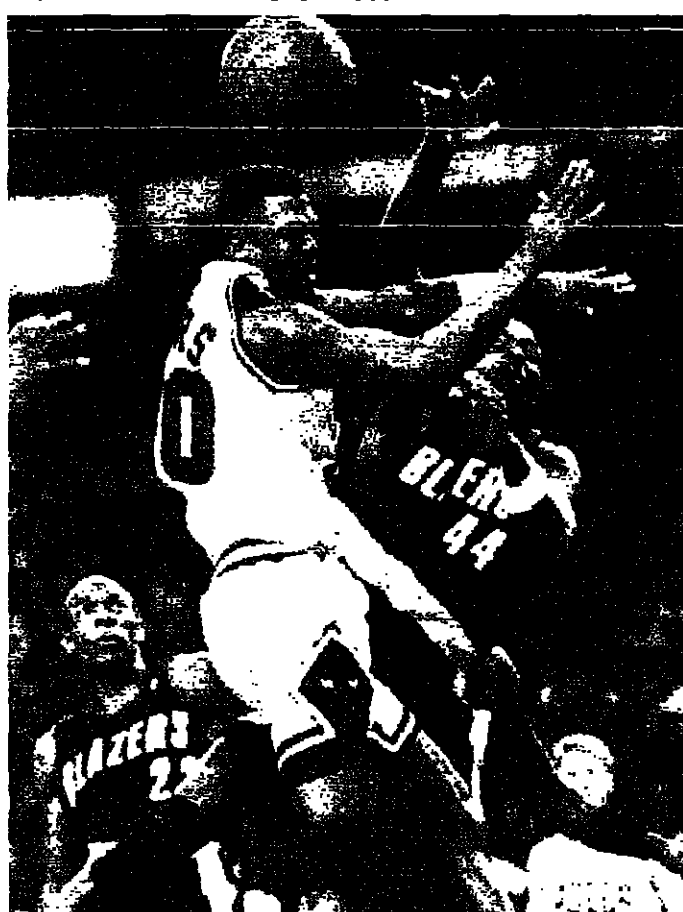
Drexler hit 11 of his 19 shots and connected on four 3-pointers. Rod Strickland added 16 points and dished out 11 assists as six Blazers scored in double figures.

Scottie Pippen scored 22 points and Corie Blount added 17 for the Bulls, who fell to 3-7 since the All-Star break, including 2-6 at Chicago Stadium.

Portland, whose last win at Chicago was in game two of the 1992 NBA finals, won its second in a row and is 8-1 in its last nine games.

Chicago, which has lost four straight since a three-game win streak, has been held under 100 points in each of its last six losses.

In San Antonio, David Robinson scored 14 of his 41 points in the fourth quarter to lift the Spurs to a 121-113



Portland Trailblazers Harvey Grant (right) blocks a shot by Chicago Bulls Pete Meyers (center) as the Trailblazers Clyde Drexler (left) looks on during their NBA game (AFP photo)

victory over the struggling Los Angeles Clippers.

In Phoenix, Cedric Ceballos scored 17 of his 29 points in the second half as the Suns overcame a sluggish start to record their 20th straight victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves, 106-101.

A.C. Green added 18 points and 11 rebounds, including four points in an 8-0 run early in the fourth quarter that gave the Suns a comfortable 92-83 lead.

In Denver, Reggie Williams scored all 20 of his points in the second half to lead the surging Nuggets to a 98-89 triumph over the Orlando Magic.

In Indianapolis, Derrick McKey scored 24 points and Byron Scott added 16 off the bench to lead the red-hot Indiana Pacers to a 126-110 rout of the New Jersey Nets.

The Pacers, winners of 14 of their last 16 games and nine in a row at home, improved to 3-0 against the Nets this season.

Reserve Johnny Newman scored 20 points to pace the Nets, who have lost back-to-back games for the first time since Feb. 6 and 8.

McKey was 9-of-11 from the field and 6-of-7 from the line for the Pacers, who never trailed.

Peacock upsets Manchester United

LONDON (R) — Gavin Peacock, scorer for Chelsea in Manchester United's only previous defeat in the English Premier League this season, repeated the feat Saturday as the Londoners stunned the league leaders 1-0 at Old Trafford.

Chelsea handed United their only previous loss in the league this season with a similar scoreline at Stamford Bridge in September. Before Saturday United had been unbeaten in 34 league and cup matches, only six short of the English record.

Blackburn, 2-0 victors over Liverpool, narrowed the gap at the top of the league to four points, although United have a game in hand.

Jason Wilcox and Tim Sherwood, recalled after injury, scored for Blackburn each side of halftime.

Ian Wright, not required in new England manager Terry Venables's first squad and

dropped for Arsenal's mid-week European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg match against Torino, scored a hat-trick as the north London side thrashed Ipswich 5-1.

Wright scored a splendid goal from a tight angle in the 18th minute, converted a 40th-minute penalty and scored again four minutes from time for his 27th goal of the season.

At the other end of the table, bottom-placed Swindon salvaged a 1-1 draw with West Ham.

Manchester United, in hot pursuit of a unique English treble of league title, league cup and F.A. Cup, started without inspirational Frenchman Eric Cantona for the second game in a row.

And ominously for the Old Trafford crowd of 44,745, Chelsea fielded the only two men to score winners against United this season — Peacock and Mark Stein, who scored twice for Stoke City in the

league cup also back in September.

Both men combined for Chelsea's goal Saturday with Stein nodding the ball to Peacock who calmly beat Peter Schmeichel.

Kenny Dalglish, a cult figure for Liverpool both as player and manager, was his usual emotionless self as his new team Blackburn showed the battle for the premier league title is far from over.

Wilcox scored in the 17th minute when Norwegian Henning Berg caught the defence napping with a clipped pass to leave Stuart Ripley in the clear. Ripley sent over a low cross and Wilcox rammed the ball past David James from close range.

Blackburn grabbed their second in the 65th minute when Liverpool's defence was again caught flat-footed and Alan Shearer opened the way for Sherwood to put a 15-metre shot beyond James's reach.

Kankkunen wins Portuguese Rally; Auriol occupies second place

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) — Finnish driver Juha Kankkunen won the Portuguese Rally late Friday, roaring out of the mid-country hills pressed only by French teammate Didier Auriol who took second for a Toyota sweep of the four-day road race.

Kankkunen, last year's world rally champion, pushed his Toyota Celica to a 6-hour, 20-minute and 59-second overall time, winning nine of the 36 dirt and gravel stages and finishing 40 seconds ahead of runner-up Auriol.

Italy's Massimo Biasion, in a Ford Escort Cosworth Cs, was 50 seconds off Kankkunen for third. Carlos Sainz of Spain was 2 minutes, 16 seconds behind in his Subaru Impreza 555 for fourth in the 2,215 kilometre road race.

Auriol threatened to over-

take the Finn in the final two days of racing.

But it was Kankkunen's consistency, never lower than fourth in a stage, that won the "Flying Finn" the roses and his first world rally victory of the 1994 season.

"It was a very tough rally, very hard fought," Kankkunen said after racing to the finish in this town 26 kilometres west of Lisbon. "That last leg was brutal."

Local favourite Carlos Sainz also drove well, winning one stage and tying for second with Kankkunen on another. But Sainz's effort and the screaming support of thousands of fans who lined the roads to cheer him on were not enough to top the feisty driving of "Miki" Biasion.

Biasion, after being passed late on day three by Auriol,

roared back on the last leg to win two stages and the Kankkunen for first on another, racing to within ten seconds of second place.

The 1994 Portuguese Rally has seen favoured drivers drop out early: Scotland's Colin McRae Thursday abandoned the race after his Subaru Impreza 555 stalled on the steep midcountry hills.

McRae joined last year's racewinner Francois Delecour of France and Italy's Andrea Aghini, both of whom left the race with engine failures Wednesday, on the sidelines.

Friday's final eight stages covered 592 kilometres from the central town of Viseu to Estoril.

The roads were generally hard and dry after four days of sun, despite the early fog.

Maradona still unpredictable after all these years

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The image of soccer star Diego Maradona, squinting down the barrel of a compressed-air rifle, was of a besieged man literally taking aim at his critics and tormentors.

Maradona, the best-known active player of the world's most popular sport, has admitted shooting at journalists gathered outside his home Feb. 2, a day after he and Argentine team Newell's Old Boys announced he was leaving the club. Five journalists were injured by the pellets.

"Out of control," read a leading newsworthy cover headline under a photo of Maradona pointing the rifle.

Five days later, after travelling to Oriente, a fishing town (450 kilometres) south of Buenos Aires to escape the media glare, Maradona fought with a news photographer in a restaurant.

Even for Maradona, known for his mood swings, this was bizarre behaviour.

Argentines, usually quick to forgive their hero's sins, are wondering about his state of mind just four months before the World Cup begins in the United States.

"He has become a victim of a world that cares about success, nothing else," Guillermo Blanco, Maradona's former press chief, told the Associated Press. "Everyone wants to know if he's going to play in the World Cup. That's important. What's important is him as a person."

Maradona is trying to relax in Oriente with his wife, Claudia, and daughters Dalma, 6, and Giannina, 4. He must testify to a judge investigating the shooting, but a date

has not been set, said one of his lawyers, Hugo Wortman Joffe.

An AP request to interview Maradona was rejected. But many Maradona watchers say the midfielder is depressed because at age 33, hampered by leg and back injuries, he realizes he is not longer the player who dominated the 1980s.

Maradona, however, said Thursday he is "dreaming of playing the World Cup," which would give him the chance to "go out with flying colours."

Those who know Maradona do not doubt him.

"Maradona always needs to feel motivated, and the only motivation he has is the World Cup," said Enrique Sacco, a radio and TV journalist who has covered Maradona closely.

"On the national team he feels permanently motivated."

Throughout his career — which began when the 15-year-old from the Buenos Aires slums signed a \$100 a week contract with local team Argentinos Juniors — Maradona has been as brilliant with the soccer ball as he has been clumsy without it.

In 1991 he received a 15-month suspension for testing positive for cocaine use after a game for the Italian team Naples, where he played from 1984-91. A month later, after returning in disgrace to Buenos Aires, he was arrested for cocaine possession.

Maradona was not sentenced to jail, but ordered to undergo treatment and submit to periodic drug tests.

During his suspension, the 1.65 metre Maradona ballooned nearly nine kilograms. He repeatedly said he would never play competitive soccer again.

But he signed with the Spanish club Sevilla, where he failed to improve, a mediocre team in his only season there.

Upon his return to Argentina, Maradona again promised that he was retired. But with the help of a Chinese dietitian in Uruguay, he lost about 10 kilograms, returned to the national team and signed with Newell's — his first stint with an Argentine league team since 1981.

"One constant about Maradona is his unpredictability," Blanco said. "You can never guess what he'll do next."

At his best in the mid-1980's, Maradona zigzagged with the ball seemingly attached to his foot, freezing defenders in their tracks the way Michael Jordan did on the basketball court. The precision of his passes often surprised even his teammates.

On the biggest stage of all, the World Cup, Maradona took on an aura of invincibility, leading Argentina to the title in 1986.

He got away with scoring one of his two goals in the quarterfinals against England by illegally using his fist: The so-called "hand of God" goal, decisive in Argentina's 2-1 victory, gave the country a measure of sporting revenge for its defeat in the 1982 Falkland Islands war with Britain, and assured Maradona's place as a national legend.

In 1990, with defenders sha-

dowing his every move, Maradona was less effective in the World Cup. But his presence created opportunities for teammates, and Argentina finished runner-up to West Germany.

Today, Maradona can still make the sharp pass, as he did in a tie and win in two cup qualifying games against Australia last year.

But he is at least a step slower than he was in 1986. Defenders, all too aware of his passing ability, usually trip or slide-tackle Maradona before he can set up his teammates.

"Just by the nature of aging, his body isn't the same as in 1986," Sacco said. "He doesn't have the same explosion. He can still be important to the national team, but not decisive like in '86."

Though neither Newell's nor Maradona spelled out the reasons for their Feb. 1 separation, Maradona was clearly tired of limping on worn-out legs and disgusted with his team's poor play. Newell's apparently decided that Maradona was not worth the \$7 million they had to pay for him.

But Maradona, surprising as always, says he wants to return to Newell's.

"When I give myself to something, I give myself completely," Maradona said Thursday. "I feel I owe a debt to the fans, and I want to pay it off."

Harding's mother gets strange package, bomb squad called

PORTLAND, Ore (R) — The bomb squad was called in Friday after the mother of figure skater Tonya Harding received a suspicious package, police said.

The incident happened a day after Harding was attacked by an unknown assailant while walking home through a Portland park Thursday night. She escaped, but suffered scrapes, bruises and a sprained wrist.

Harding is under investigation over allegations she was involved in plotting the Jan. 6 attack on rival skater Nancy Kerrigan.

Lavona Golden, Harding's mother, went to pick up mail from a post office box in the Jantzen Beach Shopping Centre in Portland Friday afternoon, and found a small package with a letter attached. Portland police spokesman Derrick Foxworth said.

Golden opened the letter,

but left the package untouched.

Foxworth said the anonymous letter said something like: "I'm a Nancy Kerrigan fan and you're Tonya Harding's mom."

Foxworth did not know the contents of the letter in detail, but he said Golden interpreted it to be a threat and made an emergency call to police.

"She became fearful it was a bomb and she called 911," he said.

A police officer came to look at the package, decided not to open it and called in the bomb squad, which took away the suspicious package.

Foxworth said the bomb squad had not yet opened the package, but planned to do so sometime Friday evening. Harding has long had a stormy relationship with her mother.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ A 3</p> <p>♥ A J 5 3</p> <p>♦ J 9 7</p> <p>♣ A 8 7 2</p>	<p>EAST</p> <p>♠ 10 7 4 2</p> <p>♥ J 9 8 5</p> <p>♦ 10 9 7 6</p> <p>♣ Q 6</p>
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WEST: ♠ 10 7 4 2 ♥ J 9 8 5 ♦ 10 9 7 6 ♣ Q 6

SOUTH: ♠ K 6 ♥ K Q 8 4 2 ♦ 8 5 ♣ K 5 4

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♣ Pass Pass
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
We have constantly exhorted that pessimism pays at the bridge table. Consider the play of this hand and then rate declarer's ability on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the expert level.

Once South made a vulnerable overall, there was no way North was going to stop short of game. Since a jump to three hearts would have been invitational and any tem-
porizing bid might have been passed, North took the direct route

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	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashimi Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	THELMA AND LOUISE Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:30	ROUND TRIP TO HEAVEN Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' FILOFAX Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' PASSENGER Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden X Forbidden	presents a play entitled: Al Ilm Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day Coming soon: The next play	Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play) daily at 9:15 p.m. Theatre is closed Sundays, Monday and Tuesdays

